



DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES - A SPECIAL MEMORIAL ISSUE OF THE TIMES

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THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

COMPLETE ORDER OF ABBEY SERVICE PLUS: WHERE TO WATCH THE FUNERAL

Princes lead nation's grief



The Prince of Wales with his sons, Prince Harry and Prince William, looking at the flowers outside Kensington Palace after their return from Balmoral

Queen pays tribute to 'exceptional and gifted human being'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, DANIEL McGROARY AND ALAN HAMILTON

THE QUEEN last night paid a warm and personal tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, as an "exceptional and gifted human being" who had made many, many people happy.

Shortly after returning to London from Balmoral, she broadcast live to the nation "as your Queen and as a grandmother" to share the people's sadness at the death of her daughter-in-law.

Speaking "from the heart" she said: "I want to pay tribute to Diana myself. She was an exceptional and gifted human being. In good times and bad, she never lost her capacity to smile and laugh, nor to inspire others with her warmth and kindness.

"I admired and respected her — for her energy and commitment to others, and especially for her devotion to her two boys.

"This week at Balmoral, we have all been trying to help William and Harry come to terms with the devastating loss that they and the rest of us have suffered.

"No one who knew Diana will ever forget her. Millions of others who never met her, but felt they knew her, will remember her."

In a clear reference to the criticisms of the Royal Family's response to the Princess's death, she added that lessons should be learnt both from her life and from the "extraordinary and moving reaction to her death" and she promised: "I share in your determination to cherish her memory.

"This is also an opportunity for me, on behalf of my family, and especially Prince Charles and William and Harry, to thank all of you who have brought flowers, sent messages, and paid your respects in so many ways to a remarkable person. These acts of kindness have been a huge source of help and comfort."

Today's funeral, the Queen concluded, was an opportunity for everyone to join in expressing grief and gratitude for Diana's "all-too-short" life.

"It is a chance to show to the whole world the British nation united in grief and respect.

"May those who died rest in peace and may we, each and every one of us, thank God for someone who made many, many people happy."

The Queen had earlier clearly been astonished when she confronted the masses of flowers outside Buckingham

Palace as she returned from Balmoral with the Duke of Edinburgh.

Prince William, Prince Harry, and the Prince of Wales, too, were obviously overcome when they saw the sea of colour in front of the iron gates of Kensington Palace, their family home until 1992.

The Royal Family's arrival in the capital was greeted with palpable relief by the massive crowds who had felt that it had been too aloof since the death of the Princess on Sunday. And the scenes at the palaces were the strongest possible vindication of the Queen's decision — even at a late stage — to change her plans, relax protocol and allow her family to make a more open display of their grief. It was what many had waited for all week.

The Queen also let it be known that she does not want the flowers at all the palaces will certainly remain in place over the weekend and beyond."

The three Princes arrived at Kensington Palace from Balmoral at lunchtime to find a crowd of 10,000 waiting to grasp their hands and express sympathy and sorrow. The boys were tearful but composed and managed grateful smiles as they spoke to people in the queue.

The Prince of Wales gulped

several times before he was able to talk to his sons as they stood together, drawing their attention to various parts of the display. Within moments, people were holding out flowers across the barriers and the sad little family group soon found themselves carrying bouquet after bouquet from the crowd to add to the

mountain. One woman told the Princess: "Be strong, your Mum is in a good place", as a wave of public affection welled up for the boys. "God bless you", "We are so sorry", people called out. Many were openly crying.

The Queen had arrived in London on a separate flight with the Duke, her mother and Princess Margaret, 45 minutes after the Princes.

As the Queen and Duke arrived at the gold and black gates of the Palace, they got out of the car to look at the bouquets, flags, photographs and tributes to the Princess draped along the entire frontage.

The Queen shook her head and turned to her husband, pointing to the carpet of cellophane-wrapped flowers. Beside her a poignant symbol to the public disquiet at the

Royal Family's behaviour until yesterday was a Union Flag at half-mast. Slowly the Queen walked along the lines of flowers occasionally leaning down to read a message or to look at a child's toy or photograph.

For several moments the royal couple stood together, their heads bowed, lost in thought at the many thousands of handwritten tributes, many of which were critical of them.

Once the crowd realised that she was stopping to look at the flowers, she turned for a second, smiled, and then gazed back down at the endless succession of simple tributes.

Turning from the flowers, she saw 11-year-old Kathryn Jones holding a spray of five red roses. The Queen took them and said: "Would you like me to place them for you?"

The girl replied: "No, Your Majesty. These are for you and I'll put them in my pocket."

She walked to the right hand side of Marborough Road and began to talk with many members of the waiting queue, exchanging private greetings and farewells.

Looking shocked and moved at this simple expression and support, the Queen said: "Are you sure these are meant for me?" Behind her, the Duke of Edinburgh bit his lip.

Afterwards Kathryn said: "I had originally intended these flowers for Diana because she was such a wonderful person, but when I saw the Queen and how sad she looked, I felt sorry for her after all the things that had been said."

"I don't think she did anything wrong. She is a grandmother to William and Harry and they needed her more than we did."

There were similar scenes at St James's Palace a few minutes later when the Queen and Duke arrived to view the coffin lying in front of the altar in the Chapel Royal as her elder son and grandsons had done a few minutes before. There can have been few more difficult moments of the Queen's 45 years on the throne, with the outstanding exception of her own father's funeral in 1952.

The Queen and Duke then moved to the Long Corridor to see the books of condolence — which people were still prepared to queue for 11 hours to sign yesterday — and at 3.30 they emerged from the Friary Court entrance to be greeted by a spontaneous and prolonged burst of applause. The Queen's visage seemed momentarily to lighten.

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She wanted above all to help those who had no voice and were helpless.

Simon Jenkins

Great Brington church should become her proper memorial.

Anthony Howard

Dynasties are about destinies — and in royal ones there is no escape.

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Al Fayed says he has been told the Princess's last words

By RICHARD FORD

THE last words and requests of Diana, Princess of Wales, were conveyed to Mohamed Al Fayed and have been passed on to "the appropriate person", it was claimed yesterday.

Mr Al Fayed was approached by someone who had helped the Princess during her final hours, and knew her final words, his spokesman Michael Cole said.

Mr Cole also confirmed that Dodi

Fayed had given the Princess a ring on the night they died and said that Mr Al Fayed had asked the Spencer family if a silver plaque inscribed with a poem his son had written for the Princess could be placed in her coffin.

Mr Cole said: "Dodi wrote a poem for the Princess, and had it inscribed on a silver plaque. The plaque had been placed under her pillow at Dodi's apartment in Paris." Mr Cole did not know the words of the poem.

The Princess also gave Dodi a pair of cufflinks. They were the last gift she had received from her late father. She said that she knew that it would give him joy to know they were in such safe and special hands."

Mr Cole said that what Dodi had meant when he gave the ring to Diana only hours before she died, would never be known: "If the planet lasts for another thousand years, people will still wonder about its significance."

The Princess is to be buried on an island in the centre of an ornamental lake, known as The Oval, in the grounds of Althorp Park, her brother Earl Spencer revealed yesterday.

The Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev Ian Cundy, consecrated the ground on Thursday and a temporary bridge is being built over the lake. The burial ground will be open for a number of weeks each year for the public to pay their respects but the island will otherwise protect the Princess's final resting place and allow her sons to visit in privacy.

The funeral of Henri Paul, the couple's driver, was postponed after his family called for a second autopsy and a pathologist sent to Paris by Mr Al Fayed questioned whether the driver had been drunk. Mr Paul was due to have been buried this morning in his home town of Lorient, Brittany. The original autopsy found that he had a blood alcohol level three times the legal limit.

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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

MIKE WILKINSON

Police ask mourners to look out for each other

The Yard is preparing for a major operation, Stewart Tendler writes

THE millions of mourners flooding London's streets today are being urged by Scotland Yard to help each other and obey police orders.

Yesterday as the Yard put the finishing touches to orders for the 16,000 officers who will police the operation, Chief Superintendent Brian Paddick, second-in-command in the Yard's biggest public order operation for decades, said thousands of special constables and traffic wardens would also be on duty.

The Government is hiring 2,500 guards from private security companies to act as stewards at public buildings, the sites of television cameras and public facilities. The stewards are being drawn from Wembley stadium and companies with experience in dealing with large public events.

Tom Laidlaw, the former head of the Yard's ceremonial

operations, will supervise communications between the stewards and the Yard.

Mr Paddick called on the mourners to do what they were told by police. "We are asking everyone to cooperate with police and with each other." He is said he believed the police could cope with a crowd which may reach six million. Contingency plans are in hand for any emergencies.

Mr Paddick said police officers along the route would face into the crowds to watch for any signs of crushes or disturbances. Asked how the officers themselves will feel he said: "The officers are there to do a job. We are expected to be professional but we are human."

He said police would console their colleagues as well as any mourners in the crowd who were overcome.

The police are advising all members of the public to bring warm clothing, food and drink and to be prepared to be caught in crowds for many hours.

Earlier this week Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, called on parents to think very carefully about bringing small children to the funeral.

Mr Paddick will be the "silver" commander operating from a sophisticated mobile control unit. He will be directed by Commander Mike Messenger in the Yard's special operations room, codenamed



The Queen and Princess Margaret are driven from Balmoral on the way to Aberdeen airport at the start of their journey to London

GT. The two men performed the same roles during the Notting Hill carnival last month.

They will be responsible for up to 8,000 uniformed officers who will line the route of the cortege and the hearse.

CID officers will mingle with the crowd and details of a group of "royal watchers" who have fixations about members of the Royal Family and who could cause disturbances are being given to officers.

The Security Service and Special Branch intelligence officers have not identified any threats to the funeral from terrorists or extremist political groups but no possibilities are being ruled out. Yesterday police and local council and utility workers finished inspections of sewers, base-

ments, telephone boxes and post boxes on the main route to prevent the risk of bombs.

A security cordon is being created around Westminster Abbey and streets are due to be closed along the route from dawn. Sharpshooters trained by the Yard's PT19 firearms unit will take up positions overnight on key buildings and nine Special Branch teams will start close protection for a group of VIPs.

Hillary Clinton, wife of the American President, is not arriving until this morning and will fly out again later today. All the other VIPs including Bernadette Chirac, wife of the French President, Queen Noor of Jordan and Suzanne Mubarak, wife of the Egyptian president, will be in London by this morning.

Guards ready to shoulder a heavy burden of honour

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE guardsmen from the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards who will carry the coffin into Westminster Abbey have been given orders to eat a big breakfast this morning to be prepared for the physical ordeal. The royal coffin is lead-lined and weighs 40 stone.

Under a Welsh Guard tradition going back 150 years, the guardsmen from The Prince of Wales's Company will prepare themselves for the honour of forming the bearer party with a wake-up call at 6.30am, a session of physical training and a full breakfast.

Major Crispin Black, second-in-command of the battalion, said: "The PT is always done before big parades to loosen the limbs, and before going on ceremonial duties of this nature everyone must have a big breakfast. It's unlikely that anyone will have the appetite for the legendary full Army breakfast although it will be available, but they must eat something to sustain themselves through a long parade."

He said this had been the standing orders for the Brigade of Guards for nearly 150 years. Most of Thursday and yesterday was spent rehearsing the techniques and drills required of a bearer party at Wellington Barracks, using a practice coffin of about the same size and weight, and out

of sight of the public. The preparations included grooming the bearskins, polishing boots to the high sheen so characteristic of guardsmen and cleaning the scarlet tunics. Eight guardsmen from the Prince of Wales's Company will act as the pallbearers. Two extra guardsmen will be the cap bearers, in charge of taking the bearskins when the pallbearers remove them to go into the Abbey. The Guards fly back to Northern Ireland after the ceremony for the final days of a six-month tour.

The King's Troop, Royal

Horse Artillery were also busy yesterday making final preparations for the gun-carriage duty which is to be their responsibility. Major Keith Brooks, the commanding officer, made sure that his men were fully ready for their task of drawing the gun carriage, bearing the coffin, along the route from Kensington Palace to the Abbey. In a private briefing before ordering the men to relax for the afternoon, he said that there was no one "on this planet" better able to perform the gun carriage duty.

The gun carriage will be drawn by three pairs of horses, with a mounted sergeant, Sergeant Damian Gascoyne from Derby, riding on the left of the leading pair of horses. The officer commanding the section, Captain Grant Chantler from Devon, will be at the rear of the gun carriage.

Six Falklands veterans have been given a special place of honour at the funeral service. The ex-servicemen, three of whom were seriously wounded, will represent the South Atlantic Medal Association, formed earlier this year to help veterans of the conflict. The delegation, wearing their Falklands and gallantry decorations, will be led by Rick Jolly, the former Royal Navy Surgeon Commander who was awarded the OBE for his life-saving efforts at the emergency field hospital in Ajax Bay during the war.

Lord Bramall will have no official role at the funeral, although he has been invited to the service. The Lord-Lieutenant does not have a constitutional function on such occasions.

Blair to discuss monarchy's role

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR will take an early opportunity on Sunday to discuss with the Queen the future of the monarchy in the wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

After a week in which he has played a substantial behind-the-scenes role in the preparations for the funeral, the Prime Minister is expected to tender his private advice on how the Royal Family should attempt to rebuild its image.

Although officials decline to brief about such meetings, the decision of the Queen to see Mr Blair at Balmoral so soon after the funeral is an indication of her desire to hear more of her Prime Minister's views

after a week in which he has been praised for being in tune with the mood of the nation, in contrast to the Royal Family.

Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, would have been at Balmoral this weekend for the annual Balmoral talks with the Queen. Ironically, they had been due to discuss the future role of the Princess of Wales and the campaigns with which she had been associated, notably on landmines.

Now they will be discussing the Royal Family's approach to the future after a week when it has been criticised as never before for seeming too remote from the public mood.

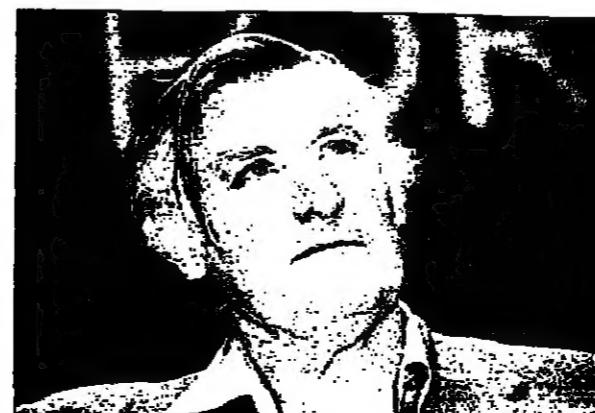
Although it is known that the Prince of Wales persuaded the Queen to discard

protocol and to make a more public display of the Royal Family's grief, it is also certain that he was advised by Mr Blair that the public was finding it hard to come to terms with aloofness.

The decision to stage the eve-of-funeral broadcast came from Balmoral but it was welcomed eagerly by Downing Street. In their private discussions with Palace officials, Mr Blair's staff gave a warning of the unsettled public mood over the absence of a flag at Buckingham Palace.

The Prime Minister could be expected to tell the Queen gently that there are lessons for the Royal Family in the increased warmth of the public towards them once protocol had been dispensed with and the arrangements changed.

Laureate's memorial in verse



Ted Hughes: moved by "momentous occasion"

TED HUGHES, the Poet Laureate, has written a poem to commemorate the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Mr Hughes, the Poet Laureate since 1984, usually only writes a poem to celebrate a national event, such as a royal birthday. The poem has been released to the media in return for donations to the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

Joanna Maclellan, publishing director of Faber and Faber, said: "Ted felt that it was such a momentous and sad occasion that it should be as widely available as possible so that the public could

read it. This was all his idea. I don't know where he wrote it, or when he made his decision to do so. He is always rather mysterious. The poems just turn up."

6 September 1997

*Mankind is many rivers
That only want to run.
Holy Tragedy and Loss
Make the many One.
Mankind is a Holy, crowned
Mother and her Son.
For worship, for mourning:
God is here, is gone.
Love is broken on the Cross
The Flower on the Gun.*

Ted Hughes

Queen
'has been
hurt by
unfair
attacks'

BY MICHAEL EVANS

LORD BRAMALL, Lord-Lieutenant of London, spoke in support of the Queen and the Royal Family on Friday after criticism among the public and the press over their perceived muted response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and their strict observance of protocol.

Lord Bramall, former Chief of the Defence Staff, said he was not clear what the public wanted of the Queen.

No one was closer or more deeply involved in the grief over the loss of the Princess than the Queen and Royal Family, and in particular Prince William and Prince Harry.

"I really don't believe that because so many of us touchingly and genuinely have reacted so dramatically (to Diana's death) that we have any right to criticise those who have decided to grieve in private, especially when they are nearer to the grief and trauma than any of us," he said on the BBC Today programme.

Lord Bramall, who in his official capacity as Lord-Lieutenant of London was at RAF Northolt when the body of the Princess was flown in from Paris earlier this week, said he had moved to speak out for the Queen because of the "unfair" criticism.

The Queen, he said, had "taken account" of public feeling by announcing that she would give a television broadcast and by allowing the Union Jack to fly at half mast over Buckingham Palace. But the fact that no flag had been flying until now was entirely in keeping with the tradition in which the Royal Standard flew only when the monarch was in residence. "In no sense was this disrespectful to the Princess of Wales," he said.

The Queen and Royal Family had done what other families would do, which was to grieve in private. The Queen's primary responsibility had been to give love and support to the two young princes "in the comparative peace of Balmoral".

The Queen would have been "hurt", he said, by the criticism that had been "somewhat fanned" over the last few days. Speaking to *The Times*, he said the surge of emotion in the country had reminded him of VE Day and VJ Day.

When the British people showed such public emotion, "which is unusual", they appeared to expect the members of the Royal Family to react in exactly the same way. "It's as if those queuing to sign the books of condolence want the Queen to do the same and to stand with them for 10 hours," he said.

Lord Bramall will have no official role at the funeral, although he has been invited to the service. The Lord-Lieutenant does not have a constitutional function on such occasions.

Mourne
Princess

THEY started carrying their own comfort clothing overnight bags bearing poignant personal mementoes of the monarch. Some felt drawn to the flower beds in cathedrals and department stores in the hope that they would be buried with the Queen. Mourner, St Peter's, Manchester, said: "It was not enough to have the Queen in the National Express train so that they would be

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Books of condolence to stay open

By DANIEL McCORMICK AND ADRIAN LEE

THEY came in their thousands last night in a final rush of emotion pouring along The Mall to sign the books of condolence for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Police watched helplessly while the queues stretched ever longer as the Palace prepared to shut the books at midnight to allow preparations for the funeral.

Buckingham Palace said that the one million floral bouquets left at the three Royal Palaces will stay in place throughout the weekend

and beyond. Only after the Princess is buried will the Palace decide what to do with the bouquets and the messages. Their more immediate concern last night was what to do with the throng who had taken over The Mall and its approaches.

Families ignoring advice not to subject young children to a cold and lengthy wait clamoured to find the end of the queue of people that by last night was longer than at any time since the Princess's death.

At the end of the queue that was now beyond Admiralty Arch, the police kept a con-

cerned eye trying to judge how long it will take to process the thousands still waiting. Those involved in arrangements along the funeral route found their efforts hampered by the crush of people milling in both directions.

The Palace tried in vain to reassure those wanting to sign the books that they would have every chance to leave their condolences.

The plan is to move the 43 books to Kensington Palace state apartments and open them to mourners at 2pm on Saturday. A Palace spokesman said: "They will stay open 24 hours a day until Monday,

PERSONAL TRIBUTES

September 15, and longer if need be. We're having to keep this under constant review because there is such an obvious demand and we simply don't know what is going to happen this weekend."

The Palace says it has not decided what to do with the many thousands of written messages. "That will be for Prince Charles, the Royal Family, Earl Spencer and the rest of his family to decide where these books finally go," the spokesman said.

It is also undecided if the public will ever have a chance to read the expressions of condolence. "As many were intended as a personal farewell message then every consideration has to be given to best to deal with this sensitively to respect the public's wishes and the family's wishes," the spokesman added.

The spokesman said that the tributes outside the royal palaces will remain all weekend and beyond. "Careful consideration is being given as to how best to preserve this tremendous expression of

sympathy. Ultimately of course the flowers and the many messages of condolence will have to be collected.

"Of particular concern is to ensure that the messages are gathered safely before the possibility of severe damage by the weather and they will be offered to the families. It's only appropriate that the flowers and the messages must be gathered by hand." One suggestion is that the flowers will be offered to hospitals, children's homes, retirement homes and hospices.

The Palace authorities said that none of the hand-written messages would be destroyed.

Some are critical of the Queen and the Royal family but they, too, will be given to the Palace and the Spencer family. The authorities say it is too soon to say if there will be a permanent exhibition of the tributes and messages.

At 1.20pm the queue to sign the book of condolence at St James's Palace was closed off by Buckingham Palace officials and the police. The last person allowed through was Randle Williams, 37, of Newbury, Berkshire, who was allowed to join the end after explaining that his wife had suffered from an eating disorder and had drawn inspiration from the Princess.

PC Don Gatford, whose duty it was to turn people away, said: "People were obviously disappointed but took it in the spirit it was meant."

JOHN PARKER

Campers joke today, knowing sadness is to come

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AS the multitudes pitched their tents, unrolled their sleeping bags and lit their Primus stoves, people joked that this was the biggest mass bivouac in peacetime history.

Many thousands of the millions expected to attend the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, decided to spend last night camped in the Royal Parks and on the capital's streets to ensure a good view of the solemn procession.

Perhaps one of the more surprising aspects of this sleep-out was the number of jokes. Groups kept their spirits up through the long hours of waiting with gentle humour.

"You have to have a sense of humour now, because the real sadness is still to come," said Corinne Gardner, as she prepared for her second night in The Mall.

This great boulevard teemed with people from breakfast time onwards on Friday. A steady stream made their way from Admiralty Arch to join the queue to sign condolence books at St James's Palace, or to see the flowers at Buckingham Palace. Then many returned to pick their spot and bed down behind the crush barriers.

By 9am Friday, the prime positions, opposite Westminster Abbey, had long gone. So I took my deckchair and sleeping bag to The Mall, where I joined a group already rubbing their eyes after sleeping out on Thursday.

Miss Gardner — who works for a children's charity, Tree of Hope, and had brought her foster daughter (and the current Miss Bendell-on-Sea), Leyley Barker, 15 — fixed the TV crews who came to film our camp with a steady stare. "Are you going to pay us for this?" she asked, and breaking into laughter when they took worried that she was serious.

"Now I know what monkeys in the zoo feel like," said Trude Howell, 77, from beneath her woolly hat. She had been joined by her daughter, Margaret, 54, and a friend, Vicki Ibberson, 59, from Barry, South Wales. They had dragged a park bench up and made themselves quite cosy.

A dispute broke out between Dominic Weldon, 10, and his father, Richard, over who had

ROYAL PARKS

been the source of loud snoring emanating from their tent during the night.

Passers-by stopped to join in the banter, and those who regretted that they would not be able to sleep out dispensed sandwiches and drinks. One lady gave us a flower arrangement. Tea was boiled up. Policemen, both on foot and horseback, stopped for a chat. Evangelists dispensed leaflets.

"When the Jehovah's Witnesses have come we'll have had everyone," said Mr Weldon Sr.

As we settled down for the long night ahead, there was plenty of time for serious reflection. Emily Toms, 30, who had come from Bristol with her mother, Victoria Wilson, and her son, Jake, 10, said the three generations of her family had a personal reason for wanting to be present.

"We came for the obvious reasons, but also my grandmother, who is in her eighties and sadly couldn't be here, and my grandfather met for the first time at a dance at Althorp. So the Spencer family has always been dear to us," she said.

Mr Weldon said he wanted his son to see an important moment in history. "I brought my daughter to see the wedding when she was only six, and now I want my son to feel in later years that he was in some way part of this, even if he doesn't grasp the significance fully now."

"Our knowledge of Princess Diana has grown enormously since the wedding and, in her death, we have seen the significance of her life. I think it's important in some sense and celebrate her life."

■ Rail staff have been working round the clock to provide enough trains to cope with the demand from mourners heading to London.

Maintenance engineers on several of Britain's main lines worked through the night this week to ensure rolling stock is repaired in time for the influx into London.

Thousands of visitors began arriving at London's main termini on Friday, many ready to camp in the Royal parks to ensure a good vantage point on the funeral route.

Hyde Park, which normally

closes between midnight and 5am, remained open for the workmen and to allow members of the public to stay in the park. Caterers, who had driven through the night after being contacted by organisers late on Thursday, opened at 6pm on Friday and remained open all night.

Catering facilities will close during the funeral and then reopen until 6pm. All are donating at least 20 per cent of their takings to the charitable foundation set up in the Princess's memory.

Richard Llewellyn, who drove from Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, with his fish

and chip bar, had only been asked to come at 6pm on Thursday. "People have come from a long way away. We are from Wales and she is, of course, our princess," he said.

"People have to be catered for and I am sure they will understand why we are working. We will have signs up explaining about the donations which will make it clear we are not profiteering from this tragic event."

Police said that crowd estimates were anything up to five million and that a decision on whether to employ more than the planned 3,500 police officers and 70 mounted officers would be made overnight. Leave for the Metropolitan Police had been cancelled.

giving out umbrellas in case it rained," said Deborah Reynolds, who travelled from Glasgow on Thursday with twin sons, Nathaniel and Joshua, aged 6. "The way everyone has come together is the best tribute we could pay her."

Daniel Eccles, a 46-year-old Lancashire man whose multiple sclerosis confines him to a wheelchair, had met the Princess on a charity visit and said his two-day-long wait so far was a way of showing his regard for the kindness she had shown him.



The scene outside Westminster Abbey where many mourners, including some in wheelchairs, were preparing to bed down for a third consecutive night.

Young and old huddle to say their final farewell

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE VIGIL

parents in defiance of pleas by police urging youngsters to be left at home.

Janice Hall, who had travelled from Washington in Tyne and Wear with her family, including Kendall, her daughter, aged 9, said she had wanted her daughter to witness a moment in history. "We would have waited all week if we had to. Kendall wanted to be here and I did not want her to miss something so special. We

all felt it was important to pay our respects."

Amy Lee and Marla Prentice, both 16, and Alison Warner, 13, had arrived separately, but made friends as they pinned their bouquets and pictures of the Princess to the railings in front of their sleeping bags to form a makeshift shrine.

"She broke down all kinds of barriers," Miss Lee said. "She had so much love for the people that we wanted to give something back."

The amazing thing about the last

few days is the way it's brought so many people together, rich and poor, young and old," Miss Prentice said.

In the Abbey, scores of workers had toiled through the night on Thursday making final preparations for the funeral. Outside, the streets were filled with passers-by and motorists making spontaneous gifts of water, bread and fruit to the waiting crowd.

"There have been lorry drivers who have stopped by dropping off crates of apples and oranges and we even had someone

Catering for huge crowds continues around clock

By LIN JENKINS

HYDE PARK

AN ARMY of engineers and carpenters worked through the night in Hyde Park to be ready for the crowds. The giant screens, on which mourners can watch television coverage of the procession and ceremony, were expected to be ready shortly after dawn.

Work was also continuing on the sound system, with speakers along much of the route and miles of cabling supported by London's trees.

Carpenters were putting finishing touches to the staging, where cameramen will record the procession. More than 1,500 portable lavatory blocks were moved into the capital.

Hyde Park, which normally

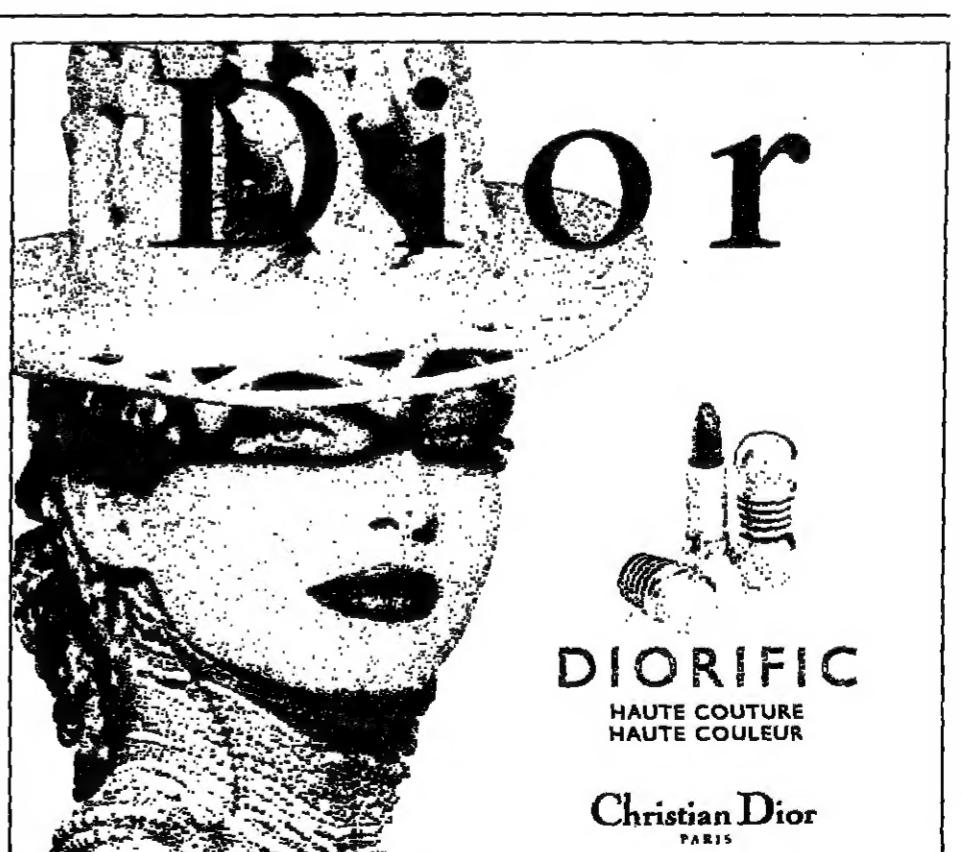
closes between midnight and 5am, remained open for the workmen and to allow members of the public to stay in the park.

Caterers, who had driven through the night after being contacted by organisers late on Thursday, opened at 6pm on Friday and remained open all night.

Catering facilities will close during the funeral and then reopen until 6pm. All are

donating at least 20 per cent of their takings to the charitable foundation set up in the Princess's memory.

Richard Llewellyn, who drove from Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, with his fish



Mourners begin pilgrimage to remember Princess who retained the common touch

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE REGIONS

THEY started early in the morning, climbing on board coaches and minibuses in distant regions, clutching overnight bags containing warm clothing for a chilly night ahead.

Some carried bouquets of flowers bearing poignant personal messages of sympathy. Few were thinking of their own comfort as they joined the flow of mourners heading south along the motorways to the capital.

All felt drawn to express their private grief in public. Many had signed the books of condolence laid out in cathedrals, town halls and department stores in their home cities, but it was not enough.

Mourners gathered early in Chorlton Street bus station in Manchester for the breakfast-time National Express coaches to London so that they would be able to establish

a position as close to Westminster Abbey as possible. Shelly Evans, 46, a hairdresser, from Hulme, in Manchester, had put on a smart suit for the journey. Inside her overnight bag was a kagoule, some woolly hats and a pair of practical shoes. "They are my hob-nail boots," she said.

She said she lost her husband to a heart attack on New Year's Day. She knew what it was like to lose someone.

"I have nobody," she said. "I just wanted to say goodbye. I am sad, very sad."

"I camped out for Princess Diana when she got married but I felt it was just as important to be there for her on this occasion. I have been to Manchester Cathedral to sign the book but it is not the same. I just had to be there on the day."

She intends to place the flowers as close to the abbey as possible before establishing her spot. The mixed bouquet carries a card signed by everyone in her salon, reading: "To Diana whom God sent to show us how to be true human beings. May you have peace always."

Thomas Gerrard, 25, an insurance salesman, from south Manchester, tried to compose some of his thoughts as he queued for the 9.30am coach to London, a four-hour journey away.

Diana, a beautiful kind princess who married her Prince Charming, For a while, at least, the fairy-tale held true.

"After her death the fairy-tale is now over," he wrote. "Diana, you were tragically taken from us but your memory and your work will live

forever. There is a light for you that will never go out. Rest in peace."

Mr Gerrard, carrying a complete set of waterproofs and tins of food for the long, overnight vigil, said that Diana, Princess of Wales spoke to his generation. She had looks and position, yet retained a common touch.

"Her privileged background did not overwhelm her," he said. "She knew the most important thing was not the wealth she was born into but what you aspired to. She was hounded to death. She was worthy of so much more."

Stanley Lee, 74, a retired coach builder, from Blackley, north Manchester, felt drawn towards Westminster Abbey by the picture in his mind's eye of the princess as a carer of the sick, the lonely and confused.

"The abiding image I have of her is surrounded by young children, especially those suffering from cancer," he said.

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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Elton John song tipped to raise millions for charity

ELTON JOHN'S rewritten version of *Candle In The Wind* is expected to become the biggest-selling single in history, raising millions of pounds for charity, when it is released later this month.

John, 50, has said that he will go to a studio and record a piano and vocal version of his 1974 hit beginning "Goodbye England's Rose..." after performing at Westminster Abbey.

Record industry insiders believe that the single will easily outstrip the 3.5 million sales notched up by Band Aid's *Do They Know It's Christmas*, the biggest seller so far which went to number one in December 1984. Some record industry experts believe demand will even ensure the record claims the coveted number one slot at Christmas.

Candle In The Wind will be released later this month and all profits will go to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Profits from all of his singles presently go to the Elton John Aids Foundation.

John said yesterday: "It is three verses about her and it's a beautiful lyric and fitting for her." Speaking on television in America he added: "I will go from Westminster Abbey to a studio where I will record a

**Studio version
expected to break
Band Aid's 1984
record, writes
Adam Fresco**

piano and voice version of the song. I'm going to put it on my new single and give all the money to start DI's charity foundation off."

A spokesman for *Music Week* magazine said: "Everyone will buy a copy. The sales will go through the stratosphere and it will be the biggest selling of all time."

A spokesman for HMV Records added: "The emotional power of the record is huge and I think it will dwarf the other singles this Christmas. People will see it as their way of relating to Princess Diana."

"It will even sell well in places like the US which do not have a single-buying culture. There is no exaggeration in saying that its potential sales run into millions and one can see it staying in the charts for 10-20 weeks."

John flew back from New York and the British soprano

Lynne Dawson travelled back from Berlin yesterday to begin rehearsals for their tributes to the Princess. Almost as soon as they touched down, they were on their way to Westminster Abbey.

John's spokesman noted that as the pop star will be appearing solo he primarily needed only to carry out sound checks at the Abbey.

Dawson interrupted performances of *The Magic Flute* with Daniel Barenboim at the Staatsoper in Berlin to sing *Liber Me* from Verdi's *Requiem*. Her repertoire on the international opera circuit has ranged from Mozart to Wagner and she has particularly excelled with sacred music such as Mozart's *Requiem* and Bach's *B Minor Mass*.

She said yesterday: "It's obviously a very extraordinary occasion. I shall be happy if I can in some small way alleviate the sadness of the family. I would not have been able to sing had I known her personally. Funerals are very difficult occasions."

Last year, in an interview with *The Times* before appearing with Opera North, she expressed interest in working "more in my own country — if only I were offered the right role". Her appearance at Westminster was at the invitation of Martin Chorister, the master of the choristers, with whom she has worked in the past.

The people of Scotland and Wales expressed sadness yesterday that the Princess will be described as "England's Rose".



Elton John with Barbara Walters, ABC anchorwoman, who interviewed him for the programme 20/20

in John's specially rewritten funeral tribute.

Complaints were made by members of the public to national newspapers and Buckingham Palace as soon as the new lyrics were published on Thursday. Many callers

said they were upset by the oversight and pointed out that Diana was the "People's Princess and not just England's".

Yesterday John's agent insisted that the newly-worked lyrics, rewritten in haste by Bernie Taupin from the original classic about Marilyn Monroe, were "a work in progress" and should not have been published by the press at such an early stage. The agent did not rule out the possibility of changing the lyrics.

IN BRIEF
Television drops ads as mark of respect

ITV and Channel 4 are suspending advertising during coverage of the Princess's funeral, it was confirmed, because it is a time of national mourning and as a mark of respect to the Princess.

No advertisements will appear on ITV from 6am on Saturday until 4pm, or during later news programmes. Channel 4 will not broadcast any commercials until 5pm and will resume the suspension from 6.20pm to 8pm, during *Serenade to a Princess* and a news special. The companies will seek to extend advertising slots later in the year, to recoup lost income.

Television listings, page 12

Master of music

Martin Neary, Master of the Choristers and Organist of Westminster Abbey, will lead the music at the service. He sang as a chorister at the Queen's Coronation, sang regularly at St James's Palace and was a successful Master of the Music at Winchester Cathedral. In 1988 he moved to the Abbey, where critics have applauded the choir's work under his direction. He is president of the Royal College of Organists.

Baby tribute

A woman who went into labour a week early after learning of the death of the Princess of Wales has named her baby Diana as a tribute. Karen Whitney, 29, and her partner, Chris Crossman, 36, decided on the name the moment they saw the news on television. The shock brought on labour, and 18 hours after being taken to hospital in Ashington, Northumberland, Ellen Diana was born weighing 5lbs 5oz.

Friendship link

Among those attending the funeral will be a former maid who, after she was told she had cancer, became a friend of the Princess. Fay Appleby joined the Princess's staff in 1984 and soon became her personal dresser. Mrs Appleby, 42, said that when she learnt she had cancer of the mouth two weeks before her wedding in 1987, the Princess gave her the use of a chauffeur-driven car to go to hospital for radiotherapy sessions.

The Times abroad

Due to early printing of *The Times* yesterday, some overseas editions of the paper do not contain the Magazine. Those who find they have no Magazine should ring +44 990 100390.

CORRECTION

A photograph yesterday accompanying a report on Laura Stanford, who stood in for Diana, Princess of Wales at a charity fund-raising launch, was in fact that of Hollie Emerson, who will be the youngest person in today's funeral procession. We apologise for the error.

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Thousands turn on their hotline to the emotions



The poet Andrew Motion, who is struck by the quality of poetic outpouring

THIS week, in their thousands, people have been turning to verse.

One of Britain's leading poets, Andrew Motion, who has written a poem for *The Times* today, says he has been deeply moved by the number of people who have composed verses to leave with flowers for the Princess.

He was particularly struck by their quality, he said yesterday. "I've always believed that poetry is important in the lives of people at moments of crisis.

When they fall in love, when people die. The weight of strong feeling can create these unusual utterances. Poetry does have a valuable role. It is a hotline to the emotions."

The Princess's death moved

Motion, who is admired for his elegiac poetry, to put pen to paper. Yet, he said, it proved particularly hard. "Poetry ought to be able to summon up a public mood, as well as speaking for private moments. It was the burden of expectation, whether or not you can come anywhere near becoming part of the tidal wave of feeling."

He added: "I felt shocked and upset when I first heard about it. In the days subsequent to the news breaking, I wouldn't say my shock had been diluted, but elaborated by the extraordinary shock of seeing how the country had reacted. We have never seen anything like it before in our lifetime or will we again."

The Princess's death moved

marriage, people felt able to "identify with her like mad".

In writing about her, he felt certain metaphors. "I wanted to write about it happening at a certain time of year, the end of summer and darkness coming in. By the idea of how the furies chased her. It's a chase, the furies, underground (in the tunnel) which has a mythic element to it. Then I start thinking about Diana and her hounds, Diana the Huntress."

He has written just eight lines, but he explained, the short poems are harder to write than longer ones.

"I wanted to write something lapidary, something written on a stone."

Sporting bodies are right to do nothing on a day of mourning

Sport's record of sensitivity is not good, but it rescued itself this week, says Simon Barnes

I always comes as a relief, not to say a surprise, when sport does the right thing. Sport's record for sensitivity to private and public feeling is not exactly one hundred percent or so, not in the right direction. The way sport treats its own is bad enough: hardly a football manager is sacked without first receiving a vote of confidence from his chairman, scarcely a player is dropped from the national team without his remaining ignorant of the matter until he reads the newspaper.

But one by one, some eagerly, some biting the earth and screaming, some by mere chance, the various sporting bodies have done what sport's enemies and most enthusiastic followers want — nothing. Saturday has always meant sport, but not today. Today, sport stops.

Theatrical people have a taste for vivid expressions. When a theatre closes down, they say that it is "dark" or has "gone dark". There is a touch of grimness in the expression, as being for part of its participants a grim trade. Sport conveys, as nothing else in national life could, what is happening. Today, sport has gone dark. Today, Britain itself has gone dark.

The Premiership football programme avoided its moral dilemma neatly enough by being cancelled by long prior arrangement: there is an international match, England against Moldova next

week, and all top flight football was postponed as part of preparation for this fixture. Most of the rest of football was swift to follow this inadvertent lead.

The exception was the Scottish Football Association. Scotland were due to play Belarus today, and were not of a mind to overcome the various logistical problems that would follow a cancellation. But they were forced to back down by the need, not to say the demands, of everyone with whom they came into contact, not least the players themselves.

Three Scottish players, Ally McCoist, Andy Goram, and Gordon Durie, had asked to be dropped if the

game went ahead today. Eventually, the crushing weight of this massive public demand for darkness succeeded in shaking even sport's traditional bureaucratic intransigence. The match will take place tomorrow.

Perhaps the only greater force than sport than bureaucratic intransigence is the bookmakers' hunger for cash. Racing in this country was darkened almost eagerly, in this most royal-conscious of sports. But that wasn't going to stop the bookmakers. The big companies, Ladbrokes, Hills and Coral, said they would put together an ad hoc programme of Irish racing and

greyhound racing with which to share the top-winners of a mourning nation.

But they too have been forced to buckle under. "We are respecting the tide of deep feeling that has affected the nation," said Roger Wethers, managing director of Coral. In another words, they realised it was no go. The nation demanded that betting shops should go dark.

And where sport has led, just about every other form of innocent amusement that the nation is capable of getting up to in public on a Saturday morning, will go dark. Or perhaps it would have happened anyway.

Pubs, cafes, shopping centres, individual shops: the country is awash with handwritten notices. Every door of every form of public business when you would think, the nation needs nothing more greatly than cheering up, wants nothing more deeply than consolation, sport has vanished, sport is dark.

And it is what people want. More: it is what people need. They simply do not want consolation. They do not want to be distracted, cheered up, taken out of themselves. They want to mourn. People need to grieve.

Now I have long observed, from personal and from various experience, that there are parallels between grief and falling in love. Falling in love is a kind of madness: a suspension of all everyday realities. It is not a permanent state; indeed, it is one of the heresies of 20th century life that being in love is not a permanent state, but one for which everyone has a permanent right.

But no. Being in love is an initial and relatively shortlived stage on the way to something more important and more profound: this being nothing less than love itself. But don't expect to establish the permanence of love without first passing through the temporary madness of being in love.

The same relationship can be found with grief and sadness. A bereavement, and most particularly a sudden and violent one, for which there can be no preparation, leaves one in a state in which nothing else can be considered. Nothing else matters.



Jim Farry, chief executive of Scottish FA, was forced by public protests to back down over game

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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Village senses loss of 'one of its own'



Wedmore's church will be open this morning, but there will be no special service



Few will journey to London, but the village streets will be deserted this morning

Like communities nationwide, Wedmore in Somerset is striving to cope with its grief, writes Simon de Bruxelles

The inscriptions in a Somerset churchyard record long-forgotten family tragedies. "Sacred to the memory of Sarah Toogood who died October 14, 1837, aged 38 years" is typical. The stories they tell are from an age when premature death was for the majority the expectation, if not the rule. It is repeated with only minor variations in towns and villages across the country.

Countless small communities ill-prepared for loss have this week had to face the death of Diana, Princess of Wales with little opportunity to join the thousands paying their respects in the capital.

The 1,500 residents of Wedmore in Somerset are typical. For most, the Princess's death has been an event as traumatic as any they can remember. But because the village is more than 125 miles and several hours away from London few, if any, will have made the journey today. Some feel guilt that they will not be there to mourn as the funeral procession passes. Others would prefer to stay at home and to nurse their grief in private. A few confess bemusement at the public emotion they are able to see but not share. The discussions taking place on Wedmore's streets this week, in its shops and in the village hall, have been echoed in communities across Britain: Should the golf club close for the day? Can the village flower show be cancelled? Would a torchlight procession be inappropriate?

Recent history sets no precedent. Older residents recall with clarity the funerals of George VI and Sir Winston Churchill. None can remember anything like this.

For many of a younger generation, weaned on antibiotics and the welfare state, the Princess is the first of their contemporaries to die. Louise Seymour, 30, was one of those who was surprised by the depth of her reaction. "I never expected to feel like this and I'm not sure why I am," she admitted.

"I didn't know Diana. I never met her, yet I feel it is a personal loss. Perhaps it is because she was 36, the same age as my husband. Whatever the reason, I can't stop thinking about it all the time."

As the funeral begins Mrs Seymour will be on the start of a long-planned holiday and she feels uneasy. "It will feel a bit strange being on a ferry to

France while the rest of the country is involved in this."

Steven Beavan, 16, whose parents run the New Inn in Wedmore, made the mistake of telling a friend as he was given a lift to a Sunday league football match. "He was so shocked," said Steven, "that he swerved across the other side of the road and nearly hit an oncoming car."

Wedmore has a long tradition of commemorating royal events, although it is more than 1,100 years since last royal visit. The most recent members of the Royal Family to pass through were George VI and Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother. Their limousine slowed but did not stop on its way to a pre-war social function. Before that one has to go back to 878, when Alfred the Great chose to spend 12 days at his hunting

January 1901. Wedmore turned out its force to pay its last respects to Queen Victoria, who, like the Princess, was the most famous woman of her day.

Two hundred people took part in a procession around the village, led by the Wedmore brass band. They included the officers of the Ancient Borough Court, the two Port Reeves (market officials) carrying their long staves of office, the water bailiff, the ale-taster, the bread-weigher and the bay warden.

The march was followed by a service in the St. Mary's, the parish church, attended by every man, woman and child in the village who could walk, and several who could not. A yew tree was planted in the churchyard a few yards from the grave where, in the first year of Victoria's reign, Sarah Toogood had been buried. It was also close to the spot where a local man called Tucker Coles dug up a hoard of Saxon coins, most of which are now in the British Museum. He used the reward money to emigrate to America, only to die fighting in the Civil War. Muriel Welch, a lifelong resident of Wedmore and a member of the parish council, said: "If this parish council doesn't do anything it ought to be ashamed. If we can't have a bea-

con, there should be a torchlight procession through the village followed by a service in the church. How is it going to look if other villages do something and we don't?"

After discussions with the vicar, the Rev Liz Cross, a compromise was agreed. The church will be open for private prayers and the lighting of candles this morning but there will be no special service.

Liz Bull, the parish clerk, will fly village's Union Jack at half-mast outside the council's tiny redbrick office this morning. The streets will be deserted and the shops will all be shut. Other flags in the village are already at half-mast, but the only other outward signs of mourning are the black-mounted pictures of the Princess in a few windows.

Wedmore, which sits on a lush green island above the wetlands of the Somerset Levels, represents an England still in some ways unchanged since the death of Queen Victoria. Many residents were born in the village, and support nearly 50 local organisations, from the Beekeeping Association to the Preserving Society. a



Village shops will close while the funeral takes place

shooting group whose 40 members dine once a year on a roast pie containing up to 150 birds.

Peter Tinney, 59, a dairy farmer, has been involved with many of them over the years and is president of the thriving Young Farmers club.

He expects to weep today. "I remember Kennedy's death and people's reaction then was

totally different," he said. "Then we were worried about the future of the world. This has been a personal tragedy felt by everyone individually, rather than by the community collectively."

"Often after something dreadful happens you see people in a huddle in the street. You know from their posture and the hushed tone of

their voices what they are talking about. That hasn't happened this time, and it's not because people aren't upset."

His wife, Margaret, believes the shock of unexpected death has yet to achieve its full impact: "I don't think it is going to hit home until there really is no more Diana."

What sort of memorial to the

Princess would the people of Wedmore like to see? Liz Beavan, landlady of the New Inn, had no doubt. She had no sympathy for grandiose public monuments, such as the Albert Memorial. "Diana was an immensely practical person," she said. "I don't think she was at all keen on the idea of having concert halls or cruise liners named after her. I

believe the best tribute that we could pay to her would be to show a little bit more understanding and care towards other people. I think that would be something she would like."

"Everyone has been treating people with a little more respect this week. This tragic event has really brought the nation together."



Margaret Redman, chairwoman of the parish council, raising the flag to half-mast

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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

NEVILLE CHADWICK

Under the spell of a rare and illuminating personality

Richard Attenborough became a lasting friend after helping the young bride in public speaking. A shy start soon gave way to a somewhat wicked sense of humour, he writes

I first met Princess Diana shortly after her wedding. Knowing that she would inevitably have to undertake an increasing number of public engagements, Prince Charles wrote to ask if I would coach his bride in public speaking. I, of course, agreed to do so most willingly.

In the beginning she was clearly nervous and my first task was to encourage a measure of self-confidence. She struck me as being genuinely shy but, despite this reticence, my overwhelming impression was of an enchanting, somewhat wicked sense of humour, most often applied to herself.

Through those meetings we became lasting friends and soon I began to find myself on the receiving end of her humour. This was usually manifested in the form of a peremptory note about some public utterance I had made in which she would sternly and precisely echo some of my own injunctions on the subject of public speaking. Her critical remarks were not, however, limited to my speeches. Once, over lunch, she took exception to my pink and green Garrick Club tie.

"How you can continue to wear that ghastly thing, I really don't know. I'll send you something decent."

And, of course, she did. But then she always did what she said she'd do. I asked her to become President of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Unhesitatingly, she accepted, on condition that the Queen, who was Patron, approved. She visited the academy several times, always laughing when she saw that I was wearing "her" tie.

"I'm not a royalist. She doesn't mean anything to me," one of the students might say beforehand. But, without exception, by the end of the day they would have joined her never-ending army of admirers. There were, you see, no barriers as far as she was concerned. She had this remarkable and, in my experience, unique ability to put you at your ease, making you feel, at that particular

moment, that you were one person in the world to whom she wished to talk.

Contrary to common perception, Diana was truly intelligent herself, certainly not academic but somehow profoundly intuitive with an ability to master any brief on any subject with impressive skill.

I completed my film *In Love and War* last year and, since the story focused on the Red Cross, I asked if the organisation would care to benefit from a charity premiere with the Princess of Wales as guest of honour. As Diana was already having discussions with Mike Whilam, director-general of the British Red Cross, about the possibility of renewing her official

momentum, that you were one person in the world to whom she wished to talk.

On her return, one somewhat condescending and pompous previous government minister described the Princess as a "loose cannon". We showed an excerpt from her Angola documentary at the film premiere and, in thanking Diana for her attendance, I added — not without a touch of anger — that "for a loose cannon, she seemed to me to have recorded a hell of a bull's-eye".

Once again, she had adjudged the public mood perfectly. The whole campaign really took off.

Governments around the world,

led by Robin Cook's announcement

that the United Kingdom will sign

an agreement to ban land mines.

And we are even now discussing such a

proposal in Oslo with the idea that

it might be known as the Princess

Diana Treaty.

Her kindness and goodwill was, of course, by no means exhibited only in the lime-light. At the recent premiere, my seven-year-old granddaughter was to present her with a bouquet. Having endlessly rehearsed her curtsey, Lucy suddenly had to cope with a souvenir programme which was thrust into her other hand at the last moment.

Although she managed to hand over both bouquet and programme, her bob was completely forgotten. When I told Diana that Lucy was mortified, she immediately turned back from the threshold of the auditorium and asked to be shown the curtsey. "I've never seen a more perfect one," she said. Result: one small child devoted to her for life.

I had helped to launch the first stage of the anti-landmine campaign some time previously and, as soon as we began to talk, it was evident that the idea of generating funds to aid the victims appealed to her enormously. This culminated in her visit to Angola under the auspices of the Red Cross, accompanied by a BBC Television crew.

Before she went, she was concerned that she might be venturing

Soon I began to find myself on the receiving end of her humour

involvement, it was agreed that I should make the approach. She immediately said that she would be happy to attend the premiere and suggested we meet to discuss the matter further.

I had helped to launch the first stage of the anti-landmine campaign some time previously and, as soon as we began to talk, it was evident that the idea of generating funds to aid the victims appealed to her enormously. This culminated in her visit to Angola under the auspices of the Red Cross, accompanied by a BBC Television crew.

Before she went, she was concerned that she might be venturing



The Princess and Richard Attenborough at the opening in May of the centre for disability and the arts at Leicester University

contemporary life. She certainly never shied away from it herself.

A few months ago, I asked her if she would come to Leicester University to open a specially designed centre for disability and the arts.

She arrived by helicopter to be greeted by crowds who had waited several hours just to catch a glimpse of her. I — as always wearing "her" tie — introduced the appropriate dignitaries. Then, accompanied by Eleanor Hartley, the director of the centre, she began her

most poignant memory of that event is the 25 minutes she spent with a group of severely

disabled young people, many with cerebral palsy and in wheelchairs, who involved her in their dance display.

There were no cameras, no onlookers — just Eleanor, the dancers, their helpers and me. This I shall never forget and neither, I hope, will the dancers.

She left Leicester by helicopter, as she had arrived. On the very same day, by the time my wife and I had returned to London by car, a handwritten letter from Diana awaited us. She wanted to say how much the event had meant to her. Her courtesies were impeccable.

And now she is gone. It is impossible to estimate how many

lives have been illuminated by her extraordinary personality. Judging by the numbers who have placed flowers in her memory or queued throughout the day or night to register their written condolences, she has, in her all too brief life, had an impact greater than any of us can ever recall.

During my own long life, I have been privileged to meet many exceptional humanitarians. None, however, has impressed me more profoundly than the young Princess Diana, whose tragic and untimely death has left the whole world bereft.

She was indeed the people's

princess, one who never allowed wealth or position to dull the intense, compassion she felt for those whom society had abandoned or cast out. Although she herself was beautiful and fashionable, the causes closest to her heart were neither. She wanted above all to help those who had no voice and were helpless.

Her fame, which proved such a relentless burden, she put to the service of the wounded, the terminally ill and the dispossessed. In remembering her, we must continue to remember, sustain and care for them in her name. She could have no more fitting memorial.



Watching polo at Windsor in the early days of her marriage

ONE



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Chief Medical Officers' Warning
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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Princess spoke of new role as Blair emissary

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND CAROL MIDDLETON

TONY BLAIR had struck up a partnership with the Princess and asked her to undertake missions abroad, she revealed in one of the last interviews she gave before her death.

In the interview, published in the *New Yorker* and written by the Editor, Tina Brown, the Princess also declared that she did not believe the Prince of Wales had the right qualities to be King. He was a follower, not a leader, she said.

But she praised the Duke of York — whom she described as “the best of the bunch” — and the Princess Royal for working hard while receiving little recognition.

She also said that she was vesting all her hopes on Prince William, whom she wanted to be “as smart as John Kennedy Jr.” at handling the media. She had tried in vain to persuade the Royal Family to appoint a media guru like Peter Mandelson, “but they didn’t want to hear it. They kept saying I was manipulative.”

The interview was conducted in June over lunch at The Four Seasons restaurant in New York. The Princess is said to have been enthusiastic about the new Prime Minister: “I think at last I will have someone who will know how to use me. He’s told me he wants me to go on some missions. I’d really like to go to China. I’m very good at sorting people’s heads out.”



Brown: report includes analysis of Royal Family

She admitted that she regretted not being Queen one day. Ms Brown writes: “We are about to order coffee, and I ask the Princess if she regrets the loss of her chance to be Queen.”

Asked whether the Duchess of York had helped the Royal Family’s image, the Princess replied: “No. And it’s a shame for Andrew, because he really is the best of the bunch. I mean, people don’t know this, but he works really, really hard for the country. He does so much, and no one pays any attention at all. It’s the same with Princess Anne. She works like a dog and nobody cares.”

Prince William was learning to understand the value of helping disadvantaged and dying people: “I try to din into him all the time about the media — the dangers, and how he must understand and handle it. I think it’s too late for the rest of the family.”

Before the Hong Kong handover, the Prince of Wales had suggested Prince William should go with him, but he said to his mother: “Mummy, must I? I just don’t feel ready.”

Asked if she would ever remarry, the Princess said: “Who would take me on? I have so much baggage. Any one who takes me out to dinner has to accept the fact that their business will be raked over in the papers. I think I am safer alone.”

Madonna speaks of Diana at MTV gala

THE pop singer Madonna spoke out about the death of Diana, the Princess of Wales at Friday’s MTV Video Music awards.

Introducing a live performance by the British band The Prodigy at Radio City in New York, she said: “I would like to take a moment to talk about what happened to Princess Diana.” Dressed in white silk shirt and black tie, she told the hushed crowd: “I am not going to rant and rave about the paparazzi or the irresponsible behaviour of the editors of all the tabloids, because even if they never cease there is still something all of us can do.”

“It’s time for us to take responsibility for our insatiable need to run after gossip and scandal and lies and rumours ... it’s time that we realised that everything that we say and do has an effect on the world around us, that we are all connected ... and until we change our negative behaviour, tragedies like this will continue to occur.”

Madonna, who once joked to the Princess that she was the only person who seemed to attract more press attention than herself, claimed packs of intrusive paparazzi are merely the symptom of a sensation-hungry public. She told *The Times* earlier this week: “As much as I want to blame the press, we have all blood on our hands. All of us, even myself, bought those magazines and read them.”

“Until we no longer feel it is our right to read about people’s private lives, until we lose our fascination with



Madonna at the music awards. “We must take responsibility,” she said

scandal and sensational journalism, we are never going to act. It is all our faults.”

The 39-year-old superstar, who met the Princess just once, at a charity cocktail party in London two years

ago, said she did battle daily with photographers. Meanwhile, the Spice Girls, who won the prize for Best Dance Video for their hit single *Wannabe*, have dedicated the award to the Princess.

Stars try to turn tables on tabloid pursuers

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THREE top actors are believed to have hired a team of detectives to investigate the private lives of America’s best-known tabloid editors, in growing anger among celebrities over paparazzi tactics and paymasters.

The attempt to use tabloid methods against the editors of *The National Enquirer*, *The Star* and *The Globe* comes amid calls in the California state assembly for tough new laws against photographers who work for them. One leading supermarket chain has removed the “supermarket tabloids” from its shelves.

Tony Frost of *The Globe*, and Phil Brunton, of *The Star* — both British — and Steve Coz, of *The Enquirer*, will soon find private investigators conducting background checks on their “wives, girlfriends, children, parents, siblings and school chums,” according to the syndicated columnist Liz Smith. She did not name the stars behind the probe but wrote: “Believe me, they are mega.”

Reports that the Princess’s driver was drunk at the time of her death have done nothing to dampen the verbal onslaught by Californian literati on those who hound them, too. On the contrary, it was the sight of “tabloid journalists dodging responsibility and placing blame on a drunken driver” that compelled George Clooney to speak out this week.

“I watch as you scramble for the high ground and take your position saying there is a market for your publications and you are just supplying the goods,” he said before drawing a comparison between tabloid journalism and crack dealers. “I wonder how you sleep at night.”

Four of the most powerful faces in film have joined the Clooney crusade. Tom Cruise was the first, recognising the Paris crash scene and telephoning CNN to urge editors not to buy pictures taken there.

Sylvester Stallone has called the Princess’s pursuers members of “a small, renegade group of legalised stalkers”, and John Travolta gave an emotional television interview offering succour to the Prince of Wales and his sons, and urging governments to revisit the question of privacy laws.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is embroiled in a legal battle with two British photographers, described “the chilling experience of being chased and hunted down like animals” for a photograph. He was recovering from heart surgery and his wife, Maria Shriver, was pregnant, when they were allegedly stopped in traffic in Santa Monica by the British pair, who face charges of battery and are expected to try to settle the case out of court.

Tom Hayden, a California state senator best known as a champion of the poor and oppressed and, as a former husband of Jane Fonda, plans to sponsor a state bill that would require photographers to stay at least 50ft from celebrities not at public events. Such bills have foundered on definitions of celebrity and public events.

A world apart and yet so very close

Ben Macintyre, Paris correspondent, was at his home in Argyllshire when news broke

HERE is a familiar moment at the end of summer in the West Highlands of Scotland, when the local folk draw up the boats, and draw into themselves a little, growing an extra protective skin as they prepare to hunker down for the long winter. The days, and some tempers, begin to grow shorter. That change seemed to come early this year, and more bleakly.

Viewed from the South, the Scottish reaction to the death of the Princess has been seen by some as somewhat pinched and undemonstrative: too much Calvinist “the show must go on” and not enough open grief. Where I come from, hard religion and hard weather have produced a tough race for whom sentiment is itself a form of luxury. Sadness is not worn openly here, but in a quiet and profound way this, too, is a community suddenly knocked out of

rest of humanity (starting well before the outskirts of Glasgow) is in a strange place.

On Monday, the usual ebb and flow of gossip had dried up. The talk in the shops was hushed. The death was an event so horrific, so distant from daily life and yet suddenly so close, that it could only be approached crab-wise. I met Archie, the former grocer, in the Co-op that has become the town’s only sizeable food shop. “You’ll be living in Paris now,” he offered carefully, and then fell silent. After a few moments we agreed, obliquely, that most people must be inside watching the television. “Terrible, terrible business,” he added, and swiftly moved away.

In the newsagents, a little knot was gathered around the black bordered copies of the newspapers. It takes something momentous to shift the steady, hardened rhythm of this place. This week that would have been the debate over Scottish devolution. I have yet to hear the subject raised. *The Oban Times*, the usually perky purveyor of agricultural events and grainy photographs of primary school children, devoted its entire

front page to the death of the Princess: the Shinty Association had postponed all its fixtures, the paper announced, and Tesco in Campbeltown was closing today. The Dalmally agricultural show, a major event in the life of Argyll, may still go ahead — farming life must go on — but the dance afterwards was cancelled. Inverary Castle was closed.

The paper noted that although, as Princess of Wales, Diana had made only one official visit to the area, here in the West Highlands, perhaps we feel the loss in a very particular way.

Columnist “McCaig” pointed out that the young Diana had spent summers as a teenager with her mother on the island of Seil and that, therefore, “she was almost a

local girl”. I have never heard her referred to before as a local. To earn that title in requires several generations. Of all the tributes, this was one of the more touching.

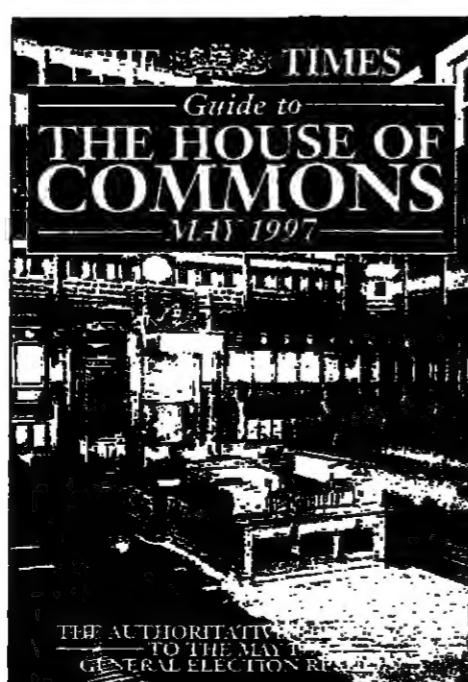
The particular pride, and the wonder, of this place, is its very remoteness from the rest of the world’s pre-occupation. If anywhere might have been expected to stand back a little from the outpouring of national grief, I thought it could be here. Instead, for the first time I can remember, a world event has rocked this little world, rendering it strangely vulnerable. There are few more peaceful or tranquil places in Britain. For once, it felt invaded by a ripple of regret and melancholy.

I have always seen our retreats here as a respite from the news. I felt it would always remain unaffected by the outer world of telegrams and anger, fast cars, famous people and front pages. I was quite wrong.

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Kind cousin provides comfort for Princes

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE kindness and support of Peter Phillips, son of the Princess Royal, is proving invaluable to Prince William and Prince Harry.

When the young Princes flew to London from Balmoral yesterday to prepare for their mother’s funeral, it was Mr Phillips, 19, who joined them on the Queen’s Flight to RAF Northolt with their father, the Prince of Wales.

The two boys, dressed in black, were driven from Balmoral to Aberdeen airport by their father.

Prince William looked away from the waiting photographers while his younger brother and their cousin stared ahead.

Mr Phillips has been at Balmoral since his cousins were told of their mother’s death.

His sympathy and understanding have touched the Princes, who have long admired Mr Phillips for his good humour and sporting abilities he is showing particularly at rugby and

excelled at all games while at school at Gordonstoun.

When the Princes ventured to the gates of Balmoral on Thursday their cousin was at their side — pointing out messages and tributes on the numerous bouquets.

Mr Phillips, who is going to Exeter University later this month to read sports science, has shown considerable understanding for the Princes in the past over the break-up of their parents’ marriage.

He knows from the first

hand experience of the divorce of his mother from his father, Captain Mark Phillips, just how traumatic that experience can be.

Mr Phillips, who lives with his mother and sister, Zara, at Gatehouse Park in Gloucestershire, has had a relatively unspoilt childhood.

While Mr Phillips has featured in the columns of the tabloid press, media interest in him has never been as intense as that on Prince William and Prince Harry — partly because he does not

have a royal title. Mr Phillips, however, does have one strong bond in common with Prince William, who is considered the royal heartthrob by teenage girls.

His older cousin knows just how embarrassing this supposed “honour” is to a maturing teenage boy — until recently it was he who was consistently voted the favourite royal by readers of teenage and girls’ magazines.

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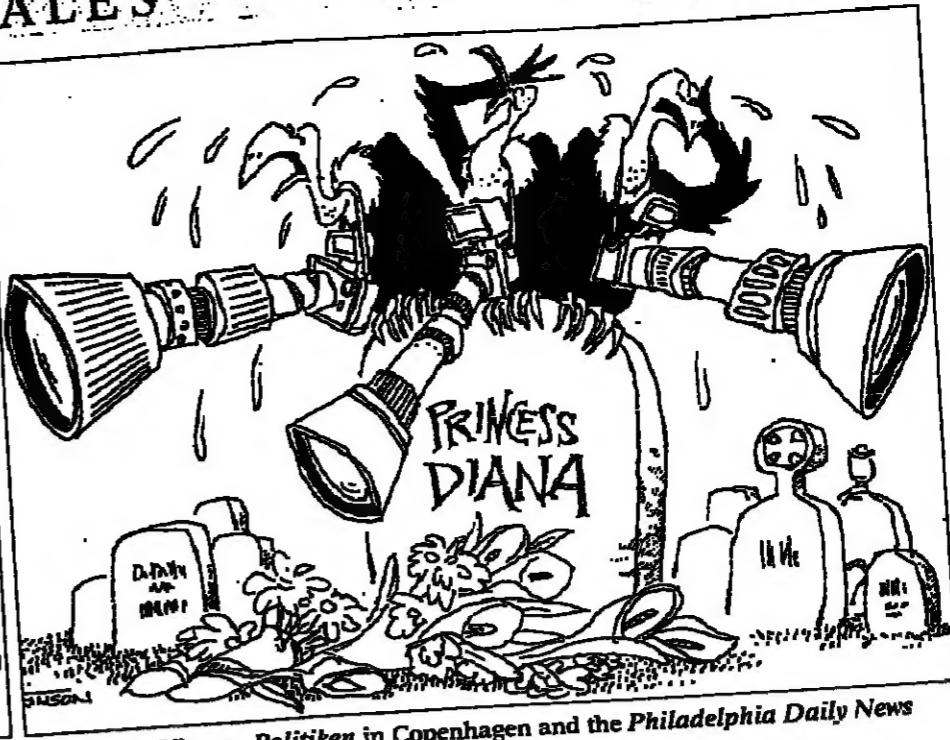
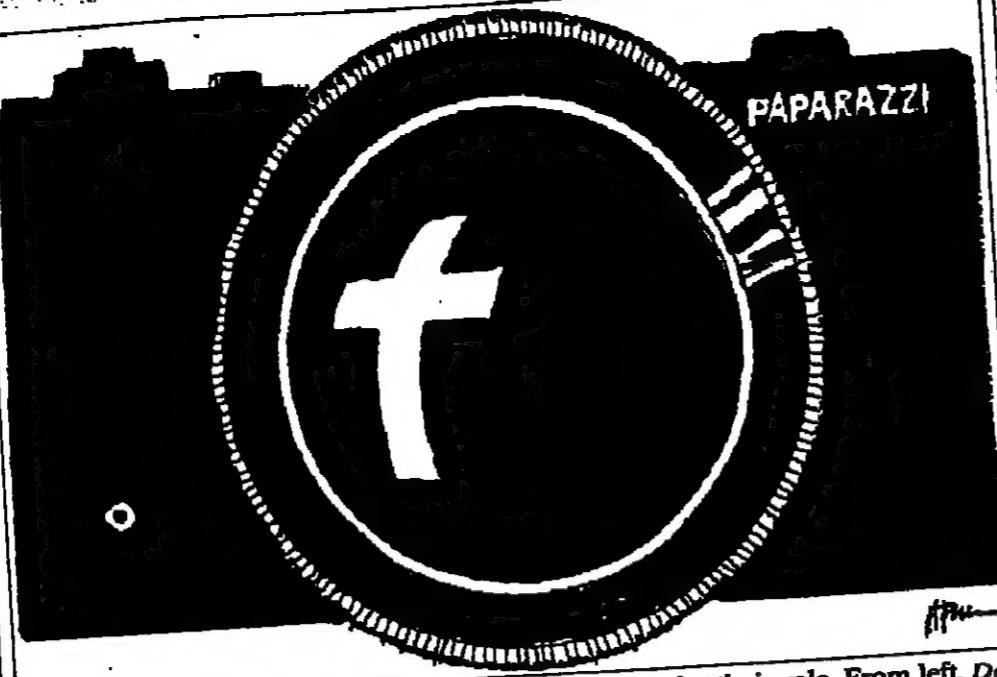
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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES



Newspapers cartoonists around the world pilloried intrusive photographers and the tabloid press for their role. From left, *Der Standard* in Vienna, *Politiken* in Copenhagen and the *Philadelphia Daily News*

Island governors lead memorial services

By MICHAEL BINNIN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE flag flew at half-mast from whitewashed government houses in a dozen tiny islands across the globe, as Britain's dependent territories marked the death.

From the Falklands to the Caymans, from Gibraltar to St Helena, British governors led the mourning and memorial services. Most had taken guidance from the Foreign

US hails 'angel' who was bigger than Jackie

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

BIGGER than Jackie, bigger than JFK, bigger than Grace Kelly — the United States seems to have stunned itself by the media coverage and public grief that it has summoned up for the death of a foreign Princess.

If it is possible, American response to the death of the Princess has been even more reverential than in Britain; indeed, many newspapers have hailed her as "America's Princess", arguing that she was more at home across the Atlantic. There was some truth in that.

As the *New York Times* put it: "The aggressive component found in the British tabloids' coverage was mostly missing from her relationship with the American mass media. Magazine editors and television executives on this side of the Atlantic described their relationship to Diana as a love affair."

Put more bluntly, they used the pictures, and the pictures looked great. In particular, there is now *The Picture*, which most newspapers and magazines have settled on as their enduring image of the Princess: the lacy, beaded, white, full-length gown, showing off her square shoulders, which she wore to a White House dinner. As one television commentator put it: "She looks like an angel."

But the dialogue of the breakdown of the royal mar-

AMERICA

riage, spun out to the British public by the tabloids, never made it across the ocean. It was that dialogue that painted a more complex picture of the Princess as someone sometimes less than charitable to her former husband and keenly aware of her power over the media.

Most Britons were aware of the flavour of that. Americans never will be short of the Princess's *Panorama* interview, the television networks have very little material with which to penetrate her character. Instead, they have endless footage of the Princess in her most successful role — international patron of humanitarian causes. In that role, like a wealthy Washington or New York benefactress, but more elegant, she looked American.

The Princess's death, and the popular backlash in Britain against the royal, has reminded Americans how much they dislike that image of Britain, and how superior they feel to it. The Princess was emotionally "open", scores of television psychologists have pronounced, and there is no greater virtue in modern America. It is clear her real popularity in America came after stories of her extreme unhappiness, and her willingness to discuss it.

In contrast, the royals have taken the British stiff upper lip to the point of cruelty, many newspapers have suggested.

Holidaymakers mourn from afar

FROM GILES TREMELLI
IN MALAGA

THOUSANDS of Britons in the holiday villas and hotels that stretch along the Mediterranean coast are living the drama surrounding the Princess's death.

Some can no longer enjoy their holidays. A few are going home early. Others are happy to be away from what they claim is an outbreak of collective national hysteria. Others are staying, but do not expect to have much fun.

All down the Costa del Sol the Union Jack, be it outside hotels or on the beach, is at half-mast. Some hotels frequented by British tourists have also dropped the red and gold Spanish flag as an additional sign of respect. The Rev-

SPAIN

Ray Jones, Fuengirola's Anglican vicar, said that a swell of popular demand persuaded him to hold a memorial service yesterday when 200 people packed into St Andrew's Anglican church. A similar service was held in the small chapel at Marbella's New Cemetery.

Michael Bartram, the British consul in Malaga, said

that it was difficult to bring people together when they were visiting for such a short time. Some people had

tears, "They wanted to chat. A lot of people have called, asking how they can send flowers or donate to the charity."

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

INDIA this week demonstrated an abiding empathy with Britain and an understanding of its feelings for the Princess.

Reports of the tragedy reached the nation's hundreds of thousands of villages via government-run All India Radio. The events of the past week have been reported in a mood of sombre respect, conveying the impact the Princess had on the world.

She is remembered for one overwhelming image, when she sat alone forlornly at the Taj Mahal, a mausoleum built for a loved wife. The royal marriage was breaking up then, and that photograph had a powerful impact on India.

Doordarshan, the govern-

INDIA

ment-run television network has given huge coverage to the tragedy, and satellite television has reached into the homes of the better-off. It has seemed that every English-speaking person has been listening to BBC World Service radio or watching BBC World television.

The Times office received many calls of condolence. The local newspapers' coverage has been huge. Reports that the driver was drunk, dominate front pages, reflecting a similar sense of disgust to that in Britain.

Death has different connotations in India. Here the loss is mitigated by the certainty that the soul lives on and that

loved ones will be united. The gap between the Princess's death and her burial has surprised many Indians for whom it is normal to cremate a person within 24 hours.

Mother Teresa, whom the Princess knew for five years, had helped India to articulate its sentiments, praising her as "like an ordinary housewife".

This is a huge compliment in a country built on family unity and loyalty. The Albanian-born Roman Catholic nun and other members of the Missionaries of Charity order in Calcutta will offer special prayers today. British diplomats will also hold a memorial service in Calcutta's St Paul's Cathedral.

But even in the most fetid slum, her name means something.

MORE than 6,000 Japanese signed a book of condolence in Tokyo and hundreds of bouquets have piled up at the gates of the British Embassy.

British diplomats extended the condolence period from two to four days. People queued under a blazing sun for more than an hour to sign.

Most were middle-aged men in business suits and women carrying lace parasols. Many were in tears as they approached a black and white portrait of the Princess.

A company executive in his 60s said: "There was a real Princess in Diana who chose herself to divorce to dedicate herself to causes such as Aids and anti-landmine campaigns. She had an integrity

as an independent-minded human being." A woman in her 40s said: "Going to dangerous areas such as Angola and Bosnia is unheard of among members of the Royal Family."

A housewife in her 60s, her eyes welling with tears, said: "I am deeply moved by Diana's caring for the poor and the sick." Another businessman in his 60s said: "I liked her elegance, kindness and unpretentious manner."

The Princess made three visits to Japan between 1986 and 1995. Her open smile and simplicity were seen in stark contrast to the traditional reserve of Japan's Imperial Family.



Bru Pearce overlooks the site, where he hopes to build a new capital named after the Princess of Wales

Plan for Port Diana capital

FROM TOM RHODES
IN MONTSERRAT

CLAMBERING through the lush foliage of Potaro Hill, Bru Pearce, a British developer, gazed down at the dual Caribbean bays that are the heart of his latest brainchild — a new capital for Montserrat, which he hopes will take the name of Diana, Princess of Wales. At first glance, it is hard to envisage his plans for Port Diana, a picturesque town to replace Plymouth,

MONTSERRAT

that volcano could be the best thing that ever happened to Montserrat. What better way to bring business to Montserrat than by naming the new capital after a woman who did so much to alleviate suffering in the world?

However, many islanders say the Princess had no direct link to the island and have accused Mr Pearce of opportunism. They believe that any capital should be named after local heroes or West Indian figures because had failed in its colonial responsibilities.

Thousands weep beneath portrait

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

JAPAN

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Popular grief and an air of distaste

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

FRANCE's chattering classes view the wave of emotion in Britain over the Princess's death in Paris, with curiosity and some distaste.

"The cult of Saint Diana is being born," *Le Monde* commented from London. "It is the cult of the perfect woman, somewhere between Marilyn Monroe and Saint Theresa of Lisieux." This caustic line reflects a remarkable consensus across the mainstream media and middle classes over the meaning of what has happened.

There is no doubt that much of France has been

touched by the Princess's death and feels great sympathy for her sons. Many are appalled that she met her end at the hands of an allegedly drunk French driver, pursued by a band of French photographers.

Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, who flew back to Paris the day after the accident, said he was certain that the public backed the decision to investigate the paparazzi under manslaughter charges. Some newspaper editors and defence lawyers say that pressure from Britain forced the decision.

The popular weekly glossy magazines that cater to French royalty-lovers have

brought out special issues. A big television audience is expected for the funeral.

However, the French reaction has run along the country's social divide, with the more educated classes voicing an amused aversion for the outpouring of emotion around the world, while the lower orders express their grief. "Jokes" were being told at some Paris dinner parties this week as some newspaper cartoonists mocked the Princess's "beautification".

A fascination for British royalty is held mainly to the preserve of less educated

women, who tend to buy celebrity magazines. The rest of the media take a disdainful view of celebrity news, supporting the country's strict laws on privacy and deplored what they see as the invasion of frivolous Anglo-Saxon values and methods. Against this background, the chattering classes and media have turned the story into a cautionary tale of the excesses of the age. *Le Point*, the news weekly, lamented the "collective hysteria, public commotion and theatricalisation of pity".

The conservative *Figaro* took a very similar line, saying that the Princess had joined the list of popular

martyrs that included Princess Grace, James Dean and Marilyn Monroe. "She incarnated a beautiful picture for the magazines with all the contradictions of the century: nostalgia for old monarchies, pangs of sympathy for the poor and the mysteries of the Third World, the taste for pleasure, the excitement of celebrity, all the shining and dangerous glitter which cover a very big emptiness."

The intellectuals have gone into overdrive. One novelist, Philippe Sollers, wrote in the *Left Bank weekly Le Nouvel Observateur* that the Princess had played along with the plot of a low-grade novel "with a lousy text".



Flowers and messages of sympathy left near the site of the fatal crash in Paris

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

ALAN WELLER



Night and day, the queues have waited, uncomplaining, as Big Ben chimed the hours. Each midnight, an overpowering scent of lilies filled the air. There was something medieval about the scene: collective mass catharsis for pity and terror

A triumph for populism in trainers

The force of the people's will over Royal protocol may prove to be a watershed, writes Valerie Grove

The last time I found myself in streets thronged with people in silent procession was in Seville last August. We stood waiting for hours outside the cathedral, until eventually a painted doll, Seville's Gothic Virgin, borne aloft in a gilded carriage, hove into distant view. The patient, orderly gathering of all age groups, the reverence for this plaster saint was so utterly Latin, so very un-Anglo Saxon... Nothing like this could happen in Britain. Or so I thought, until this week.

In the Mall, night and day, the queues have waited, uncomplaining, as Big Ben chimed the hours. Each midnight, an overpowering scent of lilies filled the air. Under dripping trees, candles flickered among the emblems: hearts and flowers, children's paintings, cuddly toys and messages: "They say God takes the ones He loves..." There was something medieval about the scene: collective mass catharsis for pity and terror, for a tragedy of Aristotelian proportions.

The public display of sorrow will reach its apogee today at the funeral. It is without precedent. For whom else would so many journeys, so far, or queues for nine hours through a rain-swept night?

I asked dozens of people why they had come. They felt drawn, they said; they felt "impelled". They had been overcome by a helpless intuition, they needed to express something. So they'd set off on the spur of the moment, wanting to be

counted. "I kept looking at the TV reports and saying to myself 'Why are you looking at this? You should be there.' So I came."

"I'm not a royalist. I admired her, I wanted to be part of it all. It's the most moving thing that's happened in my lifetime..."

Several said: "Diana's all alone in there. There's nobody with her. We had to come." One elderly man from Wakefield said: "We knew about the long wait. What's a bit of discomfort, when Diana, poor girl, died in pain? There'll never be another like her in our lifetime. And it's taken her death to unite everyone in a common cause..."

Not quite everyone. "Has the whole nation gone bonkers with this mass hysteria?" harrumphed a listener to Radio 4's PM programme on Thursday. Two hundred rang the BBC on Sunday, outraged to have schedules disrupted: "Where is *Letter From America*?" But Radio 4 listeners are not the voice of the people.

That voice, on the evidence of its messages, is not hysterical, just awash with sentiment. "You are an

angel..." "The greatest lady of all time..." "Not only have William and Harry lost you but the whole world, too..." "Diana and Dodi, you have charmed the world, good-night sweet angels, united for ever in death."

Mawkish, but heartfelt. Much of the greeting-card doggerel is so lacking in sense, it would be callous to quote it, but here is the eloquent final stanza of one poem:

"I will never forget her. Neither will many of you. I hope this tragedy has taught That horrible press crew!"

Anyone reading through the 43 books of condolence will find they reflect people's efforts to articulate what the Princess

remembered the street party for the Princess's wedding when she was nine. "I'm not an avid royal-watcher. When she said 'I want to be a queen of people's hearts', I thought 'Oh, don't be ridiculous, but she was right. Now she will never know how right she was. If only we could have told her."

Doris and John Mason had driven from Sherborne in Dorset. As teenage sweethearts, they had come to the Coronation together. Now retired, they came for the Princess. "We could have gone to our local church, but there's nothing like the atmosphere here." Their daughter is exactly Diana's age and looks uncannily like her. Doris said:

Sue Green drove through the night from Derbyshire. "I felt I had to come, because it all seemed unreal. Suddenly, late last night, I decided 'I'm going. I have to sign the book.' My 12-year-old son George, who's given me a message for Harry, said 'Mum, why are you out in the garden in the rain with a torch?' I was picking roses for Diana. They're called The Lady, which seems appropriate. It's a bit like a pilgrimage, embarrassing really. But I would have regretted it if I hadn't come."

This is a once-in-a-lifetime thing. We won't see the like of it again. She was a young shy girl, uncomfortable about speaking in

public at all, and yet at the end she could communicate spontaneously with anyone, and drew people like a magnet."

This was a crowd that did the nation credit. They were well-behaved, quiet, co-operative, grateful for the distinctly upmarket facilities provided. The well-upholstered lavatories had brass taps and light fittings: smart Harrods staff in green sweaters distributed tea and cake at the instigation of Mo-hanned Al Fayed.

But vox populi has had something to say and the Queen, visibly stung by its criticism, has now addressed the nation. The Union flag flies at half-mast. So the chainmail conventions of protocol have begun to unravel. A triumph for populism in trainers and anoraks.

The Queen made concessions in the face of criticism, largely ignorant and unimaginative, which harried the family out of its dignified private mourning at Balmoral. Until the announcement that the Queen would speak, television reporters from around the world could be heard goading people into remarking on the

absence of the "remote" and "distant" Royals.

I heard a voice declaring: "Diana was surrounded by toffee-nosed aristocratic English. In any equivalent circumstances, Diana would have come here without hesitation to be among the people." The speaker was the Rev Donald Reeves, charismatic rector of St James's, Piccadilly, who had been striding about in his cassock, handing out leaflets for his eve-of-funeral vigil and assuring everyone that even if the Church seemed to be as conspicuous by its absence as the Royals were, it would still put on a terrific funeral.

"The C of E is very good at rituals. And Elton John's music is just as sacred as J.S. Bach's cantatas," he declared. "Diana was the people's Princess and we need the people's music as well."

Should the Royal Family get down off its stilt? Robert Lacey, whose forthcoming book on the Princess will be the first of dozens, wrote 20 years ago that the Queen became angry when expected to hug a child in a hospital: "She is not cuddly like her mother." But there

is now a huggy generation of the Princess's contemporaries, who are scornful of protocol, unmindful of precedent, and — thanks to Oprah and others — who regard emotional soul-baring as the only way to deal with any misery. They overflow with helpless indignation and sympathy and need an outlet. "Why can't the Queen react?" they asked. The response "the Queen does not react" was incomprehensible to them.

The crowds in the Mall decided that the Royal Family was frozen in a stuffy, outdated etiquette, drawn up, as Sir Roy Strong points out, in the first decade of this century. And the Princess's funeral may well be a watershed, at least as important as the 1997 general election result, in having generated this attention to the popular will. It is "events, dear boy, events", as Macmillan said, that confound politicians' plans and dictate history.

Events caused this Evita-style, essentially Latin American outpouring. Oh what a circus, oh what a show. Does it indicate a permanent change? Possibly, although a recurrence of similarly tragic dimensions is highly unlikely, given the uniqueness of the Princess's gift for capturing people's hearts.

She broke down barriers. She reached out to embrace the maimed and the leprosy. She comforted the afflicted. And alas, she was destined for the 20th century's ultimate route to immortality, to be cut off in her prime.

CRISPIN RODWELL

Affection transcends ideology as Ulster republicans share in grief

Sinn Fein offers its sympathy while loyalists refuse to sing the national anthem. Martin Fletcher reports

ON THE streets of republican West Belfast, where the Royal Family is seen as the ultimate symbol of an oppressive British state, there is deep sorrow at the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In the loyalist heartlands, where portraits of the Queen adorn every public building, people who have never breathed a word against the Royal Family are furious at its perceived indifference towards the Princess.

"It's a disgrace," said Edna Venus, who lives in the Shankill Road. "I was loyal to the Royal Family, but it's hurtful the way they've behaved. Everybody's angry."

The night before Mrs Venus was in a bar when the national anthem was played at closing time. Some customers sang, but others did not. When it finished everyone toasted Diana.

Another Shankill Ro-

bar, the Rex, has not played the anthem all week, though it will observe a two-minute silence when it opens after the funeral. "If we played it, some people would stand and others wouldn't," said David Spence, the barman. "People here respected the Queen, but now it's a different ballgame."

"I loved the Royal Family, but she's not my Queen any more," said Patricia Hearst, a member of the Orange Order for 20 years. In a message in a condolence book this week she wrote "God Bless Our Queen" — referring to Diana.

A dozen passers-by interviewed around the Sinn Fein headquarters in Andersonstown Road, not one expressed anything

but sadness at the Princess's death — not out of affection for royalty, but because they saw her as a fellow victim, someone who cared for downtrodden people.

"The Royal Family are a bunch of wasters, but she's a heroine," said one old man as he left McGranaghan's Racing Shop. Another fervent republican said: "Royalty are robber barons. She was too close to ordinary people to be accepted by them."

Republican West Belfast will be glued to its televisions during the funeral, but it may be the only part of Britain where the one-minute silence is not widely observed.

"There's a sense of terrible tragedy. There's a genuine affection for her that tran-

scends ideology," said Father Gerry Reynolds, a priest at the Clonard Monastery off the Falls Road. But he added: "The minute's silence is a British convention and they don't want to express their sorrow at Diana's passing by British conventions."

Diana's death has inspired other curious happenings in this divided province. Sinn Fein, for example, offered the British people its "deepest sympathies" — though a handful of the party's councillors in Londonderry adjourned for the week.

Loyalists have called off a picket of a Catholic church in Ballymena and a parade in memory of a paramilitary man killed by the Army, this

weekend. Several public institutions with neutral "no flag" policies have become hotbeds of public anger for not flying the Union Jack at half-mast.

In Armagh on Thursday

hundreds of Protestants and Catholics came together for a memorial service jointly led by Archbishops Robert Eames and Sean Brady, the heads of their respective churches in Ireland.

The public mourning has been as pronounced in Northern Ireland as anywhere else. About 6,000 people have signed the books of condolence at Belfast City Hall and banks of flowers have been left outside.

"I've never experienced anything like this," said a spokeswoman. Thousands more, Protestant and Catholic, have signed books of condolence at Belfast Cathedral.



Loyalist, not royalist: "She's not my Queen any more," says Patricia Hearst

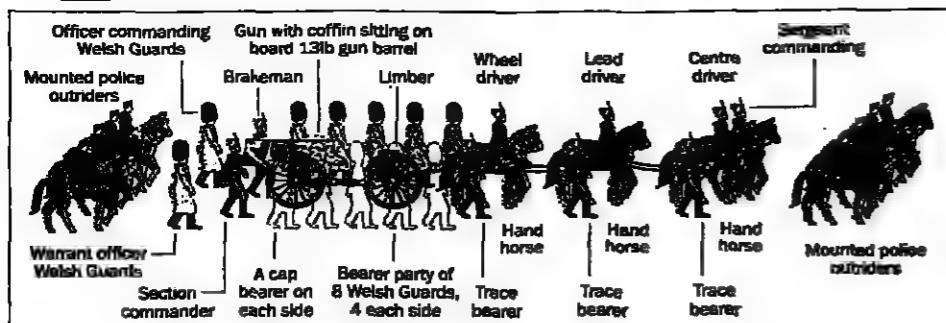
THE TIMES

GUIDE TO THE FUNERAL



DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES : GUIDE TO THE FUNERAL

Millions to line route of procession



The coffin of Diana, Princess of Wales, will be removed from her apartment at Kensington Palace at 9.08am, borne by the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. The journey will take one hour and 47 minutes (Dominic Kennedy writes).

The coffin, draped in the Royal Standard with family wreaths on top, will be placed on a gun carriage pulled by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. Police expect between one and six million people, drawn to the spectacle from all over the world, to line the streets along the route.

There will be no band. Only the half-muffled tenor bell of Westminster Abbey, tolling every minute, will break the silence.

The Welsh Guards' bearer party consists of eight pallbearers, two officers and two orderlies to carry their bearskins, which will be removed on entering the abbey.

The carriage will be drawn by three pairs of horses, with a single rider controlling each pair. A section sergeant will ride to the left of the leading pair. Four tracebearers on foot complete the King's Troop party.

Four mounted police outriders will be in front, and four more behind, the procession. There will be 7,000 police in uniform controlling the crowd, and plain-clothes security

officers will mingle with the mourners. The cortège will leave Palace Avenue and turn left into Kensington High Street, entering Hyde Park at Queen's Gate, and passing the Albert Memorial, along Carriage Road on the southern edge of the park. It passes Apsley House on Hyde Park Corner, then moves beneath Wellington Arch into Constitution Hill and into the Mall to St James's Palace.

There, at 10.26am, with the journey two-thirds complete, the funeral procession will be swollen by hundreds of specially-invited mourners. Five representatives will join from each of the 110 charities of which Diana, Princess of Wales, was patron. They will be waiting at the junction of the Mall and Marlborough Road, and comprise charity workers and beneficiaries, the young, the old and the infirm.

They will continue along the final part of the journey to the abbey via Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, Parliament Street and the east side of Parliament Square.

When the cortège arrives at Broad Sanctuary at 10.55am, the charities' representatives will take seats at St Margaret's, Westminster, where the service will be relayed by video. The cortège will enter Westminster Abbey by the great west door.

How best to reach and get around the crowded capital

UNDERGROUND

Westminster station will be closed for safety reasons all day. Extra trains on district and circle lines, running every four minutes between Gloucester Road and Tower Hill. To ease overcrowding, visitors are advised to walk as far as they can rather than use the Underground.

□ Best stations for procession to Westminster Abbey: District/Circle lines — High Street Kensington, Gloucester Road, South Kensington, Sloane Square, Victoria, Green Park, St James's Park, Embankment, Northern/Bakerloo/Jubilee — Charing Cross, Piccadilly Line — Knightsbridge.

□ Best stations for the screens for Hyde Park (two screens), Hyde Park Corner (Piccadilly Line) is the nearest Underground station. For Regent's Park (one screen), Great Portland Street (Circle and Metropolitan lines) and Regent's Park (Bakerloo line). For Fulham Football Club (one screen), Putney Bridge (District line).

□ Best stations for procession from Westminster Abbey out of London: Central Line — Marble Arch, Bond Street, Jubilee Line — Baker Street (also Circle, Metropolitan, Bakerloo lines). St John's Wood, Swiss Cottage, Finchley Road, Northern line — Brent Cross. Special buses will replace

Underground trains between Morden and Tooting Broadway on Northern Line. Northern line Charing Cross branch trains start and terminate at Kennington.

The latest information will be available on BBC Ceefax page 436 or ITV Teletext on 3, page 194.

TRAINS
Passengers using mainline stations at Waterloo, Charing Cross and Victoria are advised to walk the mile to Westminster Abbey. All mainline stations will be served by additional taxis, but they will face heavy congestion close to the procession route.

Standby trains are being laid on at most main railway stations to cope with heavy demand as visitors leave. Passengers should contact train companies for latest information. However, passengers are warned that evening long-distance services are already heavily booked.

CARS
Police and motoring organisations advise visitors not to drive into central London. Use outer London car parks (see below) and continue journey by public transport if possible.

EXTRA CAR PARKING
1,000 places at Battersea Park, southwest London: 50p charge. Served by buses to Kensington and Westminster sections of route. Park open at

7am, closed at 10.30pm. 1,000 spaces Royal Victoria Dock, East London, from 6am to 9pm. Free for users of Royal Victoria station on Docklands Light Railway.

NCP CAR PARKS:
Restricted access to the following car parks: Abingdon Street, Westminster; Arlington House, near St James's Palace; Park Lane underground; Portman Square, Gloucester Place. Other car parks open as usual.

THE ROADS
More than 60 roads along and surrounding the route to Westminster Abbey will be closed from 6am for most of the day. Other roads may be closed temporarily, and access will be heavily restricted to many roads used by the funeral cortège as it travels to the M1.

The Metropolitan Police have set up a free telephone line with details of road closures around the capital over the weekend: 0800 232242.

Latest information from AA Roadwatch, London: 0336 401122 (premium rate 39p per minute).

Roads already closed from M1 junction 15A in Northamptonshire (until 9am Monday): police stopping traffic on A43 from Towcester/Oxford. No access to M1 for short period after procession, until about 2pm. Ring-road traffic at Danes Camp Way. At Weedon roundabout, stopping traffic from town and traffic on A45 from Duston being diverted. No access to side roads across Tollgate Way and Bants Lane.

A428 — traffic stopped as required. Closed from East Haddon crossroads to Church Brampton turn. Diversions via East Haddon and Church Brampton.

Latest information from AA Roadwatch Northamptonshire: 0336 401122 (premium rate 39p per minute).

Roads already closed leading to Great Brington: from Upper Harlestone, from A428 railway bridge, from East Haddon crossroads, from Whitton, from Little Brington, from Little Brington to Althorpe estate west gate, from Nobottle to Harlestone. (Until 6am Monday only residents to be allowed into the village where the Princess is laid to rest.)

Where to sign tribute books

CONDOLENCE: The 43 books have been moved from St James's Palace to Kensington Palace, which will be open for the public to sign them from 2pm Saturday and then 24 hours a day until Monday, September 15. The completed books will be given to the Spencer family.

FOOD: Public advised to bring food and drink to last several hours (most shops and restaurants in Westminster area closed until Saturday afternoon), warm clothing and sun lotion, and to travel by public transport. More than 60 roads in the area will be closed.

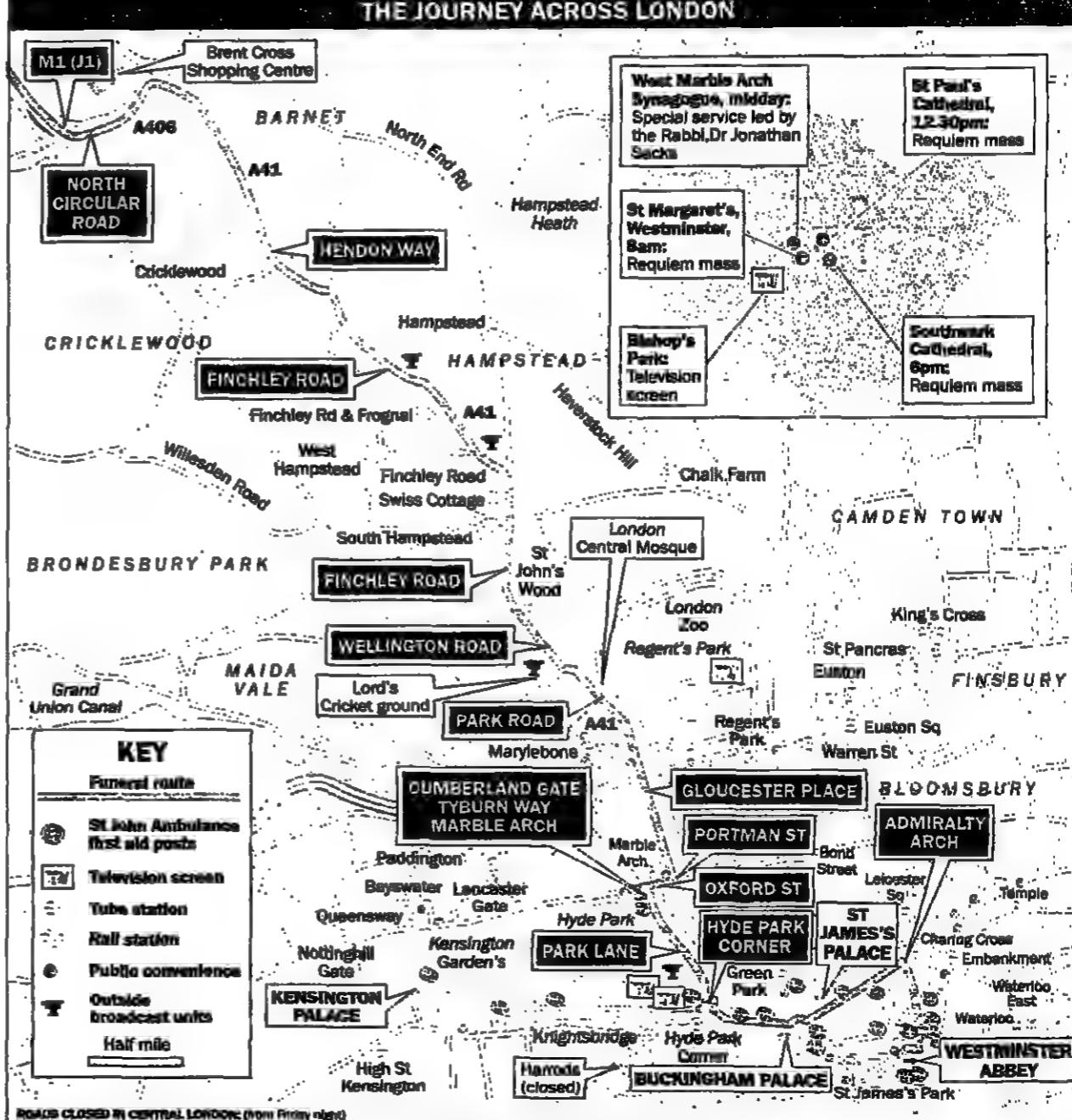
PARKS: Regent's Park closes at dusk. St James's Park, Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park open all Friday night, but camping not allowed. Camping in other parks on Friday night but the Royal Parks Police will not allow camping on Saturday. Big screens re-laying funeral at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park, Cumberland Green in Regent's Park and Bishop's Park in Fulham. Food vendors in parks and park cafés open.

DISABLED ACCESS: 200 wheelchair spaces at Victoria Memorial Gardens by The Mall, and 200 in Hyde Park for viewing relay screens. Each wheelchair may be accompanied by two helpers. Disabled lavatories provided.

POLICE STATIONS: Belgrave police station, 202 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1; Charing Cross police station, Agar Street, WC2; Kensington police station, 72 Earl Court Road, W8.

HOSPITALS: St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, SE1; Royal Brompton Hospital, Sydney Street, SW3.

TEMPORARY PUBLIC LAVATORIES: open to midnight with wheelchair access: Matthew Parker St, SW1; Tothill St, SW1; Dean Stanley St, SW1; Great Peter St, SW1; Whitehall Place, SW1; Carlton House Terrace, SW1; no wheelchair access: King Charles St, SW1.



Who will open for business and when

SUPERMARKETS

Sainsbury, Safeway, Asda, Tesco, Somerfield, Morrisons, Presto and Waitrose will all be closed until 2pm on Saturday. Co-op will be closed until 1pm.

POST OFFICES

There will be no collections or deliveries on Saturday. Main post offices that are usually open all day will be closed until 2pm. Post offices that usually close at 1pm will close at 10.30am.

SHOPS

Harrods will be closed all day Saturday; Selfridges, closed until 1pm; Woolworths (2pm); Marks & Spencer (2pm); Burton Group, including Top Shop, Principles, Debenhams (2pm); John Lewis (2pm); Dixons (2pm); Waterstones, closed but cashpoints work-

ing; Midland, closed but cashpoints working; First Direct, operational; Bank of Scotland, closed; NatWest, closed, cashpoints open; Co-op Bank, closed; Abbey National, automated teller service only; Yorkshire Bank, interactive voice banking only; Halifax, bank branches closed, property services open at 2pm; Woolwich, closed all day; Nationwide, closed all day; Birmingham Midshire, closed all day; Bradford and Bingley, open until 10.30am.

MUSEUMS AND TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

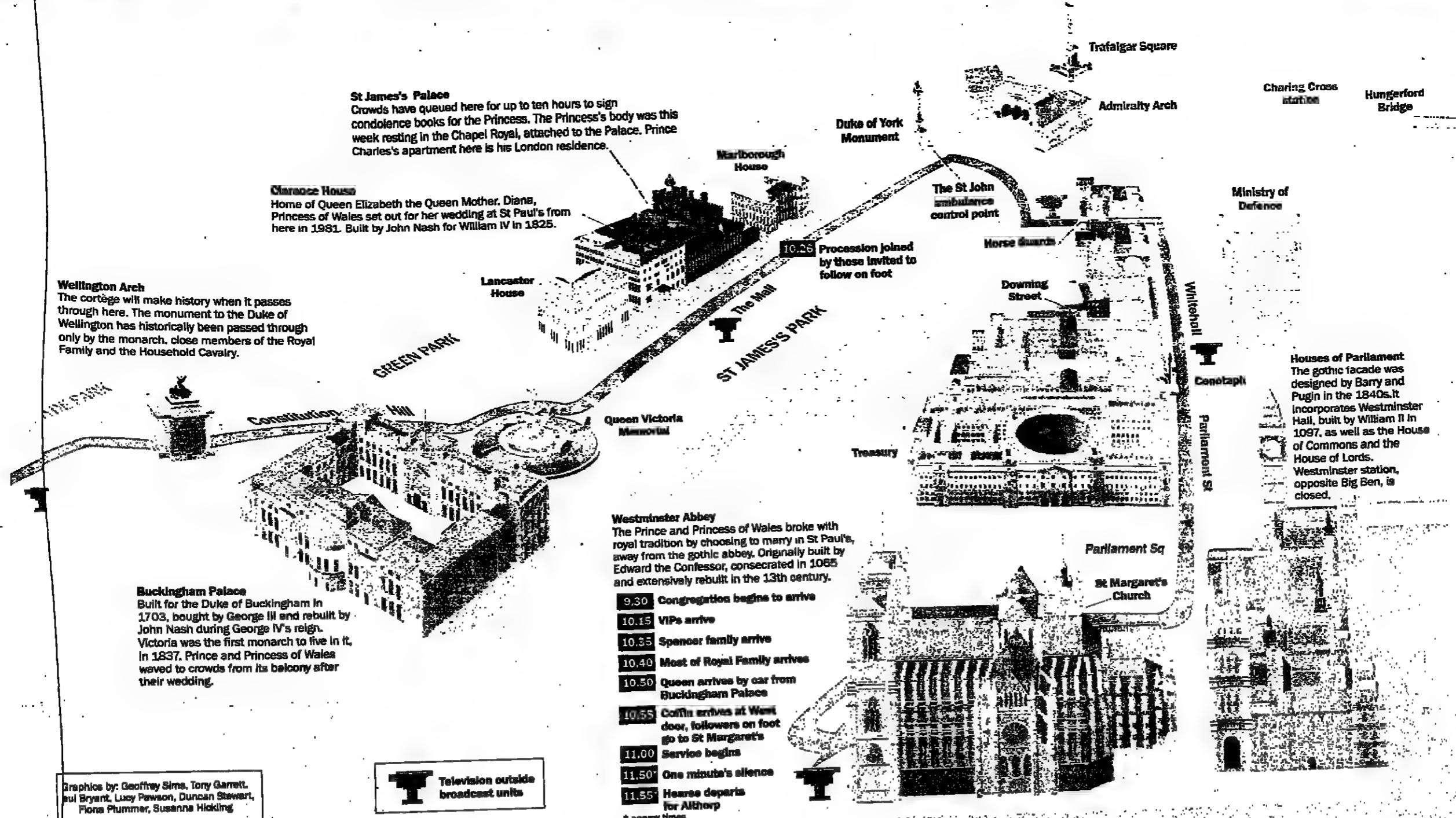
Buckingham Palace will be closed on Saturday but will open for tours from 9am on Sunday. Westminster Abbey will be closed until Tuesday. Closed until 2pm on Saturday. Royal Academy, Tower of London; Hampton Court Palace; National History Museum; National Maritime Museum; Old Royal Observatory; British Museum; Museum of Mankind; Victoria and Albert Museum; Shakespeare Tours, Stratford upon Avon.

Closed until 1pm on Saturday. Imperial War Museum; Cabinet War Rooms.

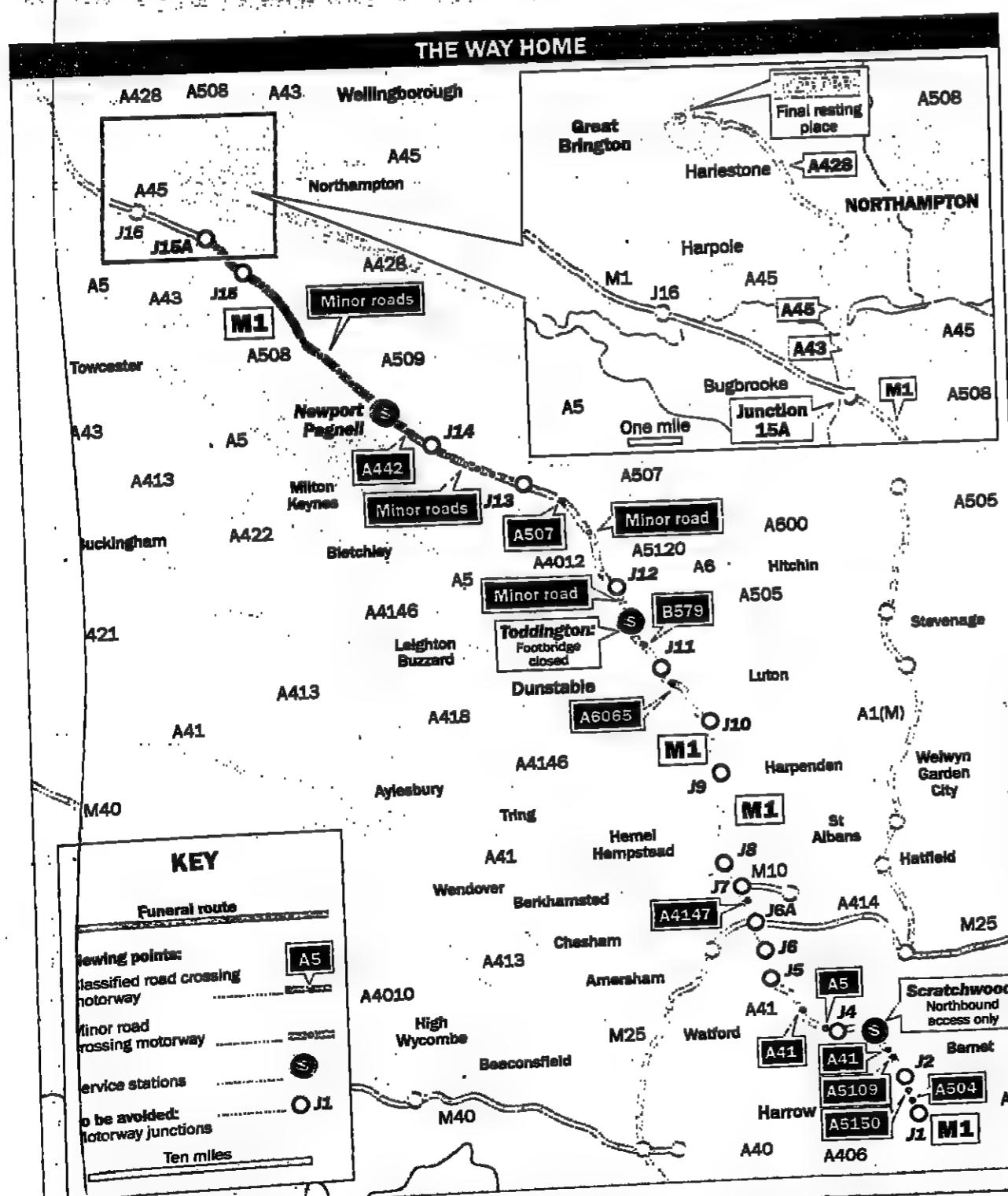
Harrods, will open on Saturday free of charge as a place of quiet consolation. All National Trust buildings will be closed until 3pm, Saturday. English Heritage buildings will be closed all day.

CINEMAS
Warner, UCI, Showcase, Virgin, Odeon, and ABC cinemas will all be closed until 3pm on Saturday.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES : GUIDE TO THE FUNERAL



THE WAY HOME



TV coverage starts at dawn

coverage in *Today* and *The Breakfast Programme*.
9am-12.30pm: Radio 4 and Radio 5
Live begin combined coverage presented
by James Naughtie and Paul
Reynolds. Radio 1, Radio 2 and Radio 3
will cover the service.

will cover the service.

12.30pm: Radio 5 Live's *The Final Journey*, covering the journey to Althorp. Radio 1, Radio 2 and Radio 3 will broadcast suitable music and Radio 4 will carry special editions of *PM* and *The Six O'Clock News*. Radio Cymru will carry coverage in Welsh, and BBC Wales will provide a 20-minute *Newyddion* special at 7pm on S4C. Local radio stations and the BBC World Service will also broadcast the service.

6am: GMTV, hosted by Eamonn

Holmes and Fiona Phillips, reporting live from the funeral locations. 8.30am: Trevor McDonald introduces ITN's coverage, which will continue until about 4pm. More than 40 senior journalists will take part. 6pm: 45-minute ITN news bulletin. 9pm: Trevor McDonald presents *Farewell to a Princess*, an hour-long round-up of the day's events. No advertisements will be carried during the funeral coverage.

Sky News
6am: *Sunrise* reports on the crowds.
9.30am: live coverage of the procession and funeral presented by Martin Stanford and Alastair Bruce.
6.30pm: *Diana — The Week the World Wept*, on the week since the Princess's death.
8pm *Diana, the Final Farewell*, a round-up of the day's events.
No advertisements will be carried during Sky News's coverage of the funeral.

Television, page 41

Families to lead the world in mourning

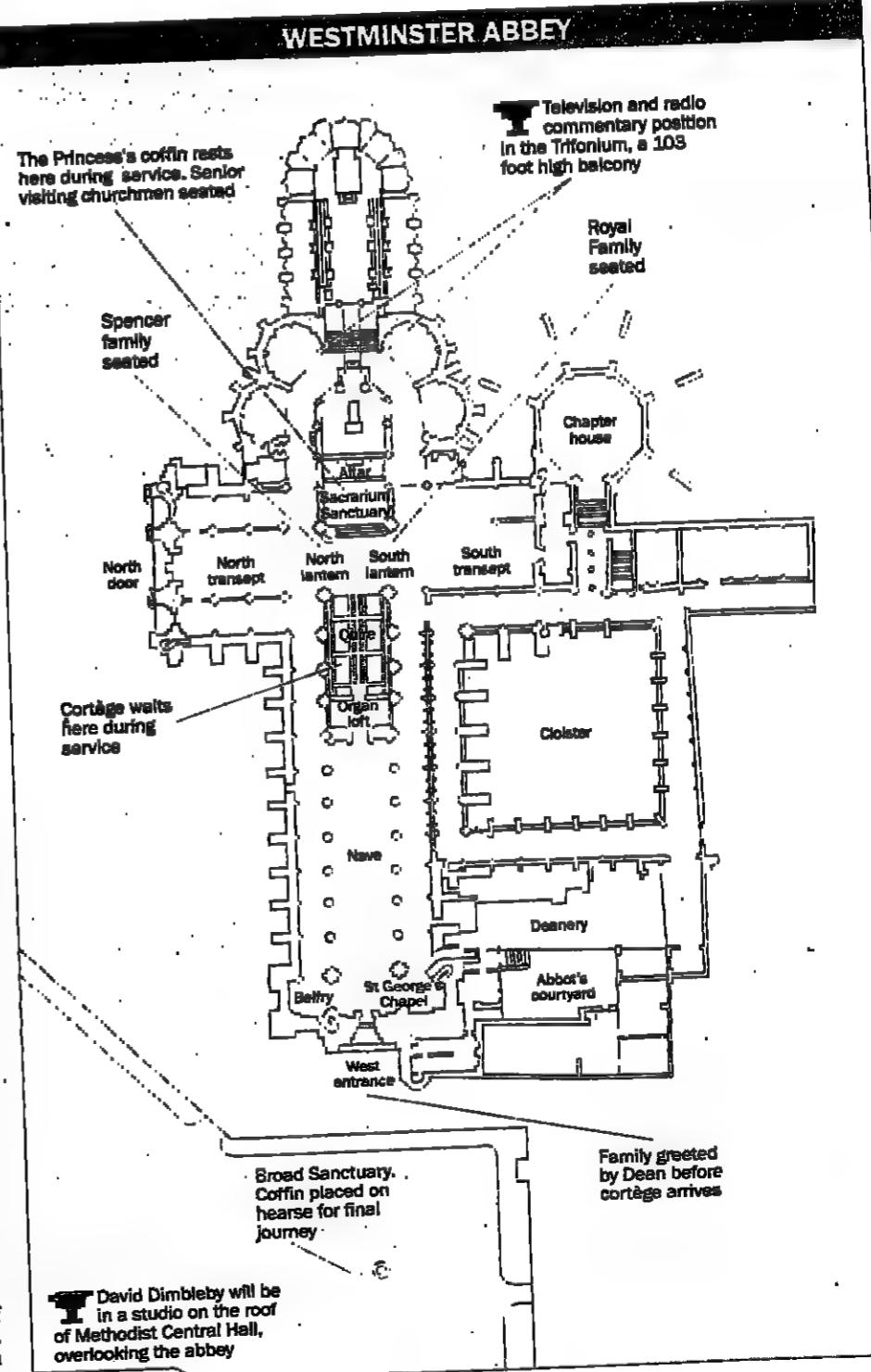
THE Queen and immediate Royal Family will sit at the front of the Abbey in the South Lantern. The Spencer family will be in the front rows of the North Lantern. The families will enter through the Great West Door.

Among the mourners will be the First Lady, Hillary Clinton, the French President's wife, Bernadette Chirac, Queen Noor of Jordan, former King Constantine of Greece, the Egyptian president's wife, Suzanne Mubarak, and Princess Margarit of The Netherlands. All surviving former British prime ministers will be joined by serving party leaders and their wives, the Speaker and senior ministers.

The opera singer Luciano

The opera singer Luciano Pavarotti will attend, as will Donatello and Santo Versace, whose designer brother Gianni's funeral was attended by Diana, Princess of Wales, in July. Friends include Lucia Flecha de Lima, wife of the Brazilian ambassador to Washington. The Harrods owner, Mohammed Al Fayed, who lost his son Dodi in the car crash that killed the Princess of Wales, will be there.

The cortège will enter through the Great West Door at 10.55am. During the service, the coffin will be in the Sacrarium, which will seat visiting clergy including Cardinal Basil Hume, the Moderator of the Free Churches, Dr Kathleen Richardson, and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Sandy McDonald. The service will last between 45 minutes and an hour.



A chance for prayer and reflection

SATURDAY
Belfast City Hall: 9am, Book of Condolence open (also open Sun). Blackburn Cathedral: 9.30am service. Clifton Cathedral, Bristol: 1.10pm service. Bury St Edmunds Cathedral: 6.30pm service. Llandaff Cathedral: 11am service, funeral procession and service screened outside. Carlisle Cathedral: 8am Requiem service. 11am thanksgiving service; noon and 1pm, prayers. Chester Cathedral: noon vigil. Coventry Cathedral: 9am service; 5pm Choral Evensong. Derby Cathedral: 2.30pm service.
Edinburgh: open-air service in Princes Street; Ross open-air theatre screens pictures from funeral service and procession. Exeter Cathedral: 3pm service. St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow: 1pm Requiem Mass. Hereford Cathedral: 9am ecumenical service. Lichfield Cathedral: 7.30pm service. Liverpool Parish Church: 9.30am Requiem service attended by Lord Mayor. Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool: 6.30pm Mass.
London: 8am Requiem Mass, St Margaret's, Westminster; 10am Requiem Mass, Our Lady of Victory, Kensington; 12.30pm Requiem Mass, St Paul's Cathedral; 6pm Requiem Mass, Southwark Cathedral. Midday special service led by the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, Western Marble Arch Synagogue.
Londonderry: 10.55am, SDLP Mayor and DUP Deputy Mayor lay a wreath at Cenotaph.
Manchester: 5.50pm vigil at Castlefield Basin. Newcastle upon Tyne: 2pm service for Northumbria Deaf Mission and the Deaf Church, at cathedral. Oxford: 6pm service, Christ Church Cathedral.
Reading: 9.30am service, St Mary's Church. Salisbury Cathedral: 7.30pm reflection. Sevenoaks: 9am vigil, St Mary Kippington, where Princess was confirmed. Taunton: 6pm civic service, St Mary Magdalene.
Wells Cathedral: 5.15pm Requiem Mass.
Winchester Cathedral: 10am funeral procession and service screened. Windsor: 5.15pm, sung Requiem at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, broadcast into precincts.
■ Synagogues will hold special services of tribute to Princess.
■ Most London churches open all day for prayer and reflection.

SUNDAY
Bangor Cathedral: 3.15pm service. Belfast: 11am service, St Anne's Church of Ireland Cathedral. Birmingham: noon multi-denominational service, Victoria Square. Bournemouth: noon open-air thanksgiving, war memorial. Bradford Cathedral: 10.15am service. Bristol: 11am Requiem Mass, Clifton Cathedral.
Caernarfon Castle: 3.15pm service. Chester Cathedral: 10am Requiem and Service of Thanksgiving. Chichester Cathedral: 3.30pm service.
Dublin: 11.15am service to be attended by President Robinson and Taibiseach.
Durham Cathedral: 3.30pm service, relayed to Palace Green.
Gloucester Cathedral: 3pm service.
Liverpool, Anglican Cathedral: 3pm ecumenical service. Liverpool, Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King: 5pm, BBC1's *Songs of Praise*.
Newcastle Cathedral: 9.30am, Sung Eucharist, ecumenical service. Salisbury Cathedral: 10am Eucharist of Requiem. York Minister: 4pm service.
September 13: Manchester Cathedral, memorial service. Sep 14: Glasgow, ecumenical open-air service, George Square.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES: GUIDE TO THE FUNERAL

ORDER OF SERVICE

During the Procession of the Cortège from Kensington Palace, the Tenor Bell is tolled every minute.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by Martin Neary, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Martin Baker, Sub-Organist of Westminster Abbey.

Music before the service, played by Stephen Le Prevost, Assistant Organist, Westminster Abbey:

Second Movement (Grave) Organ Sonata, no.2 *Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-47)*

Prelude on the hymn tune 'Eventide' *Hubert Parry (1848-1918)*

Adagio in E *Frank Bridge (1879-1941)*

Prelude on the hymn tune 'Rhosymedre' *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

Choral Prelude: Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV639 *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

Elegy *George Thalben-Ball (1896-1988)*

Martin Baker plays: Fantasia in C minor BWV537 *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Adagio in G minor *Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni (1671-1751)*

Slow movement, from the Ninth Symphony ('From the New World') *Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)*

Canon *Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

Nimrod, Variation 9 arranged from Variations on an original theme (Enigma) Op.36 *Edward Elgar (1857-1934)*

Prelude *William Harris (1883-1973)*

The members of the Spencer family are received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

All stand as they are conducted to places in the North Lantern, and then sit.

All stand as the Procession of Visiting Clergy moves to places in the Sacrarium, and then sit.

Members of the Royal Family are received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and are conducted to St George's Chapel.

All stand as they are conducted to places in the South Lantern, and then sit.

Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, are received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

All stand as Their Majesties and His Royal Highness are conducted to their places in the South Lantern.

All remain standing as the Cortège enters the Great West Door.

The Collegiate Body of St Peter in Westminster moves into place in the Nave.

All sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God Save our gracious Queen
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen,
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God Save the Queen

*Thesaurus Musicus (c1743)
arranged by Gordon Jacob (1893-1984)*

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Cortège, preceded by the Collegiate Body, moves to the Quire and Sacrarium, during which the Choir sings.

THE SENTENCES

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

(St John 11: 25-26)

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

(Job 19: 25-27)

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord.

(1 Timothy 6: 7; Job 1: 21)

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts: shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer)

Henry Purcell (1659-95) Organist of Westminster Abbey 1694-95.

I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit: for they rest from their labours.

Revelation 14: 13; William Croft

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr Wesley Carr, Dean of Westminster, says

THE BIDDING

We are gathered here in Westminster Abbey to give thanks for the life of Diana, Princess of Wales; to command her soul to almighty God, and to seek his comfort for all who mourn. We particularly pray for God's restoring peace and loving presence with her children, the Princes William and Harry, and for all her family. In her life, Diana profoundly influenced this nation and the world. Although a princess, she was someone for whom, from afar, we dared to feel affection, and by whom we were all intrigued. She kept company with kings and queens, with princes and presidents, but we especially remember her humane concerns and how she met individuals and made them feel significant. In her death she commands the sympathy of millions.

Whatever our beliefs and faith, let us with thanksgiving remember her life and enjoyment of it; let us re-dedicate to

God the work of those many charities that she supported; let us commit ourselves anew to caring for others; and let us offer to him and for his service our own mortality and vulnerability.

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above, entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love: the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test, that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best; the love that never falters, the love that pays the price, the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago, most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know, we may not count her armies, we may not see her King; her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering; and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase, and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace

Thedore Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

All sit.

Lady Sarah McCorquodale reads:

If I should die and leave you here awhile, Be not like others, sore undone, who keep Long vigils by the silent dust, and weep. For my sake - turn again to life and smile, Nerving thy heart and trembling hand to do Something to comfort other hearts than thine. Complete those dear unfinished tasks of mine And I, perchance, may therein comfort you.

All remain seated.

The BBC Singers, together with Lynne Dawson, soprano, sing:

Liber me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda quando coeli movendi sunt, et terra: dum veniri judicare saeculum per ignem. Tremens factus sum ego et timo, dum discussio veniret, atque ventura ira. Dies illa, dies irae, calamitatis et misericordiae, dies magna et amara valde. Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua lucet eis.

(Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death in that dread day when the heavens and the earth shall be shaken, and you will come to judge the world by fire. I tremble in awe of the judgement and the coming wrath. Day of wrath, day of calamity and woe, great and exceeding bitter day. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.)

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) from The Requiem.

All remain seated.

Lady Jane Fellowes reads:

Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me and on his shoulder gently laid and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me, thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight: thy unction grace bestoweth: and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never: good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.

Domine regis me J B Dykes (1823-76)

H W Baker (1821-77) Psalm 23

The Right Honourable Tony Blair, MP, Prime Minister, reads:

1 CORINTHIANS 13

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and though I have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Love suffereth long, and is kind: love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth: beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child. I understood as a child. I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three: but the greatest of these is love.

All remain seated.

Elton John sings:

CANDLE IN THE WIND

Goodbye England's rose; may you ever grow in our hearts. You were the grace that placed me, where lives were torn apart.

You called out to our country, and you whispered to those in pain. Now you belong to heaven, and the stars spell out your name.

And it seems to me you lived your life like a candle in the wind: never fading with the sunset when the rain set in. And your footsteps will always fall here, along England's greenest hills; your candles burned out long before your legend ever will.

Loveliness we've lost: these empty days without your smile. This torch we'll always carry for our nation's golden child. And even though we try, the truth brings us to tears; all our words cannot express the joy you brought us through the years.

Goodbye England's rose, from a country lost without your soul, who'll miss the wings of your compassion more than you'll ever know.

© 1973 - 1997 DJM Ltd. *Bernie Taupin (b 1950) Elton John (b 1947)*

All remain seated for

THE TRIBUTE

by The Earl Spencer.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

Make me a channel of your peace: where there is hatred let me bring your love, where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

O Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all my soul!

Make me a channel of your peace: where there's despair in life let me bring hope, where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy:

O Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all my soul!

Make me a channel of your peace: it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we are born to eternal life.

O Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all my soul!

Make me a channel of your peace: where there is hatred let me bring your love, where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Sebastian Temple. St Francis of Assisi translated by Sebastian Temple.

All sit.

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr George Carey, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan, leads

THE PRAYERS

For Diana, Princess of Wales

We give thanks to God for Diana, Princess of Wales: for her sense of joy and for the way she gave so much to so many people. Lord, we thank you for Diana, whose life touched us all and for all those memories of her that we treasure. We give thanks for those qualities and strength that endeared her to us; for her vulnerability; for her radiant and vibrant personality; for her ability to communicate warmth and compassion; for her ringing laugh; and above all for her readiness to identify with those less fortunate in our nation and the world. Lord of the loving: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For her family

We pray for those most closely affected by her death: for Prince William and Prince Harry who mourn her passing of their dearly loved mother; for her family, especially for her mother, her brother and her sisters. Lord we thank you for the precious gift of family life, for all human relationships and for the strength we draw from one another. Have compassion on those for whom this parting brings particular pain and the deepest sense of loss. Casting their cares on you, may they know the gentleness of your presence and the consolation of your love.

Lord of the bereaved: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For the Royal Family

We pray for the members of the Royal Family, for wisdom and discernment as they discharge their responsibilities in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the world. Lord, we commend to you Elizabeth our Queen, the members of the Royal Family and all who exercise power and authority in our nation. Enrich them with your grace, that we may be governed with wisdom and godliness: so that in love for you and service to each other we may each bring our gifts to serve the common good. Lord of the nations: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For all who mourn

Diana was not alone in losing her young life tragically. We remember too her friend, Dodi al-Fayed and his family; Henri Paul, and all for whom today's service rekindles memories of grief untimely borne. Lord, in your love of the restoration to eternal life, we commend to you all who have lost loved ones in tragic circumstances. Give them comfort; renew their faith and strengthen them in the weeks and months ahead.

Lord of the broken-hearted: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For the Princess's life and work

The Princess will be especially missed by the many charities with which she identified herself. We recall those precious images: the affectionate cuddle of children in hospital; that touch of the young man dying of AIDS; her compassion for those maimed through the evil of land mines - and many more. Lord we pray for all who are weak, poor and powerless in this country and throughout the world; the sick, among them Trevor Rees-Jones; the maimed and all whose lives are damaged. We thank you for the way that Diana became a beacon of hope and a source of strength for so many. We commend to you all those charities that she supported.

Strengthen the resolve of those who work for them to continue the good work begun with her. Lord of the suffering: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For ourselves

</div

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES: THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

JOHN STILWELL

Seven long days of tragedy when Britain lost and found its heart

By Andrew Pierce and Charles Bremner

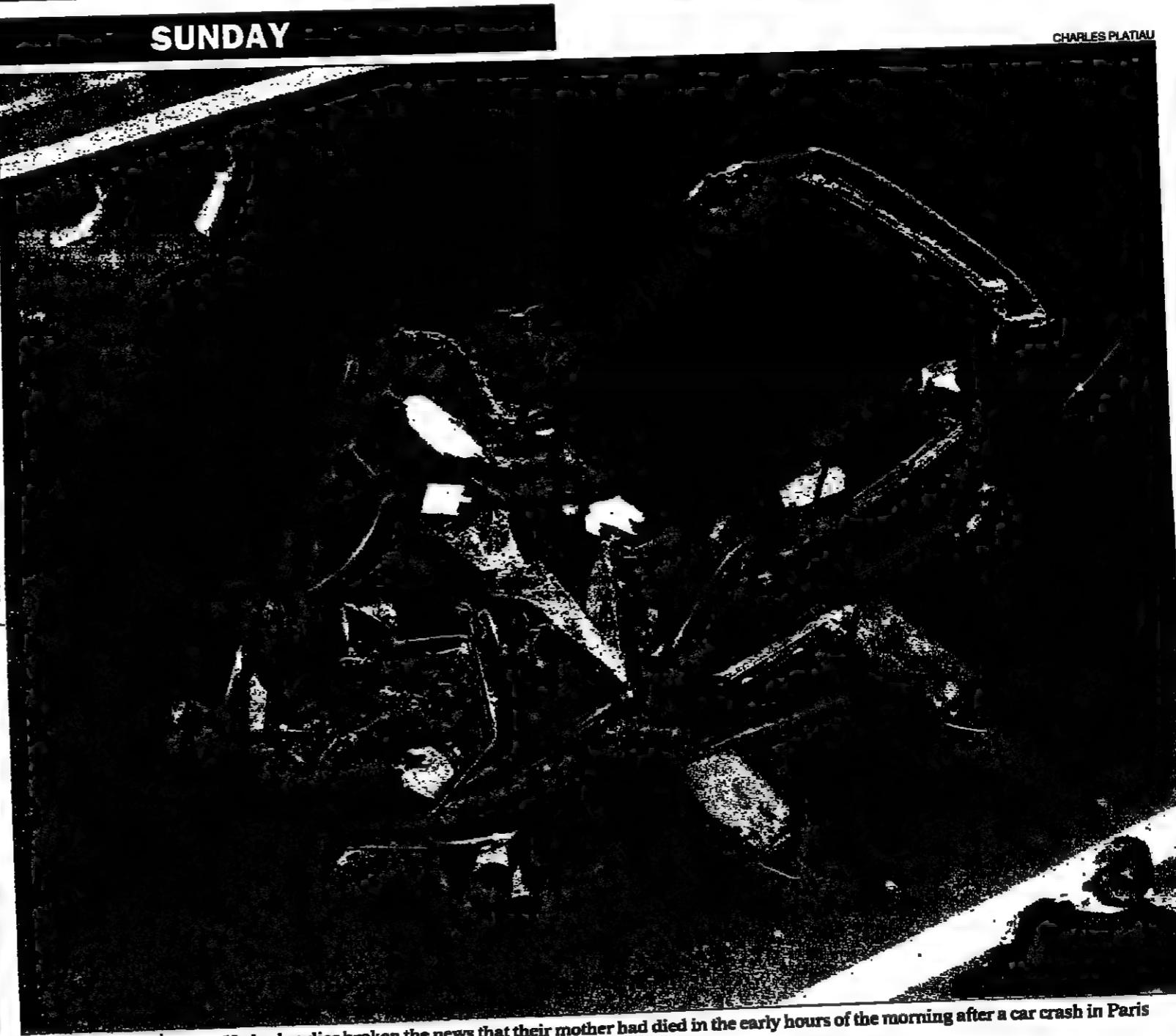
From a sunshine holiday to a race into the darkness, then the shocking news that left a nation struggling to cope with the death of a heroine



Public expressions: Earl Spencer and Tony Blair both spoke from the heart



The Prince of Wales leaving Crathie Church, Balmoral, on Sunday morning with Princes William and Harry. He had earlier broken the news that their mother had died in the early hours of the morning after a car crash in Paris



The coffin bearing the Princess's body arriving at RAF Northolt after its journey from Paris in the evening



Dodi Fayed: died in the car with the Princess

When Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Fayed had shopped for clothes in the Champs Elysées in the warm Saturday afternoon sunshine, they were concerned only to avoid the prying lenses of the paparazzi.

The couple had cut short their holiday in Sardinia because of yet another clash with the local ratpack. They decided instead to spend a quiet night in Paris before flying back to Britain. The Princess was looking forward to an important appointment in the coming week: she was to take Prince William and Prince Harry back to school.

The routine run-in with the photographers in Sardinia was the trigger for a sequence of events which would lead to tragedy in a Paris underpass and send shock waves around the world and unleash the biggest outpouring of national grief that Britain has experienced.

They were met at Paris's Le Bourget airport at 3pm by Henri Paul, 41, the deputy head of security at the Ritz. The balding Breton bachelor, who enjoyed the fast life, was to have a decisive hand in the death of the Princess.

The couple left their baggage in a £6,000-a-night suite, where they freshened up. Outside, the paparazzi were on their trail. The couple cut short the shopping trip in the arcades of the Champs Elysées and the Princess returned to the hotel where she made a series of telephone calls home.

The couple, who had been under the protective wing of M. Paul many times before, ventured out at about 8.45pm. They had planned to dine at Chez Benoit, a chic restaurant in the Rue Saint Martin, but cancelled their plans under

pressure from the paparazzi and returned to the Ritz at 10pm for dinner. The Princess, looking relaxed in white trousers and black blazer, had bags full of shopping.

For such seasoned paparazzi, the tactic was predictable: they opted to make use of a decoy car. Behind the wheel was the regular Fayed driver, who was well known to the photographers. M. Paul, a former French Air Force pilot, was chosen to drive the car carrying the Princess and Mr Fayed.

The plan was flawed. M. Paul's usual shift had ended. He had not expected to be required for duty until 2.30pm the next day, when the couple were to have flown to Britain.

He relaxed after a day's work, spending an hour at Will's, his favourite bar, where he drank whisky. Then he drank a bottle of wine with his meal and left to go to sleep at his modest fourth-floor flat, five minutes' walk from the Ritz in the Place Vendôme.

Then his mobile telephone rang. It was a summons to return to the Ritz.

There should have been only one response. By now M. Paul was at least three times over the French drink-drive limit. But he stayed silent, and so set in train the

final act in the life of the world's most-photographed woman. It was a lapse of professionalism which was all the more remarkable since it was clear that M. Paul was unfit to drive. Employees of the hotel have since claimed that they could tell by looking at him that "he was sloshed".

He was certainly belligerent. Before he clambered into the hotel's black Mercedes 220SL, he threw down an irresistible challenge to the photographers waiting to catch a glimpse of the Princess and Mr Fayed. "Catch me if you can," he taunted. Ritz staff insisted later, however, that the photographers were never close enough to the Mercedes to hear what the driver was saying to them.

The couple left the hotel at 15 minutes past midnight. The decoy car

roared out of the Ritz car park at the front, while another Mercedes pulled off in a different direction. Few of the photographers were fooled. The chase was on.

The Mercedes sped away at speeds of more than 80mph, and possibly as high as 125mph, along the Right Bank of the Seine, with the paparazzi in hot pursuit. At 25 minutes past midnight, the car hurtled into the narrow, curving underpass at the Place de l'Alma. The speed limit was 30mph; the Princess's car was doing four times that.

The details of the final few seconds in the dimly lit tunnel remain hazy. The Al Fayed camp claimed, in a memorable phrase, that the pursuing pack swarmed round the car like Apache Indians surrounding a stagecoach, and blinded the driver with camera lights.

M. Levi, a former harbour pilot, described the scene: "As the motorcycle swerved, and before the car lost control, there was a flash of light, but then I was out of the tunnel and heard, but did not see, the impact," he said. "I immediately pulled my car over into the kerb but my wife said: 'Let's get out of here. It's a terrorist attack.'"

Back in the tunnel, the two-tonne Mercedes went out of control, slewed into the 13th concrete pillar with a bang like an explosion, flipped over several times, and came to a halt against the wall. The force of the impact rammed the 2.8-litre engine into the main body of the car and killed M. Paul instantly. He slumped against the horn, which blared for two minutes.

Trevor Rees-Jones, the bodyguard, was critically injured in the front seat. He is the only person who can tell at first hand the truth about how the Princess was driven to her death, but doctors fear that he might not speak again.

From the rear seat, Mr Fayed was hurled into the

were pushing and I had to call up reinforcements."

A passing French doctor, Frédéric Maillé, administered emergency aid. He did not recognise the semi-conscious woman who, in his words, was "mianing and gesturing in every direction". Within 15 minutes, an ambulance arrived. It took 90 minutes to cut the Princess free from the wreckage.

The French Government alerted to the identity of the car's occupants ordered a high-level security operation. An ambulance, accompanied by a police motorcade, rushed to La Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital, the largest in Paris, where the British Ambassador to France, Sir Michael Jay, was already waiting.

Within an hour of the crash, a telephone call in the cold corridors of Balmoral woke staff who alerted the Prince of Wales and the Queen. Mohamed Al Fayed, who was asleep in his country estate in Surrey, received a call minutes later.

The Egyptian-born businessman prepared to leave for Paris straight away. But before he could take off in his private helicopter, the telephone rang again with the news: his son, Dodi, 41, was dead.

The Prime Minister, who was asleep in his Sedgefield constituency, was telephoned at 2am. He asked to be kept informed of developments. He woke his wife, Cherie, to tell her the news, then went back to bed, but he was too upset to sleep. Meanwhile, seven French photographers, half the number at the scene

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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES: THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

Continued from page 15

of the crash, were detained by the police. At least three had fled. Before the night was out, British Sunday newspapers were offered pictures of the Princess fatally injured in the wreckage, priced at up to £200,000. The offer was firmly declined.

Slowly the British public came to hear of the tragedy. First reports on BBC radio in the early hours announced that the Princess was involved in a crash, but suggested that she was only slightly injured. In fact, she had suffered massive chest injuries and was haemorrhaging badly. While being operated upon to stem the flow of blood, she suffered a cardiac arrest. An emergency thoracotomy revealed a ruptured left pulmonary vein. As life ebbed away, doctors performed heart massage by hand, first external, then internal.

They kept trying to revive the Princess for a further two hours until, just before 4am, the doctors accepted the inevitable.

Minutes later at Balmoral, the Prince of Wales was told that his former wife was dead. At 4.45am, the news was made public in a terse news flash issued by the Press Association: "Diana, Princess of Wales has died, according to British sources, the Press Association learnt this morning."

Millions of Britons had gone to bed on Saturday night having seen evening-news bulletins showing a laughing Princess as she prepared to leave Sardinia with Mr Fayed. They woke to the sound of the national anthem on radio and television.

The BBC and ITV ripped up their schedules and devoted their time to the life and death of the Princess. Even commercial radio stations, which usually pumped out a diet of rock and pop, switched to sombre music. The news bulletins reported a short statement issued by Buckingham Palace at 5.09am. "The Queen and the Prince of Wales are deeply shocked and distressed by the terrible news."

The Prime Minister was already busy. Mr Blair spoke to the Queen and the Prince of Wales by telephone at 9.30am. The Palace was in a state of confusion about the status and style of the funeral, because the divorced wife of a Prince of Wales defied traditional protocol. No contingency plans existed in the event of the Princess's early death, and issues of protocol had not been established.

Mr Blair filled the vacuum. He urged that arrangements should respond to the evident wish of the people that the death be marked in significant way. He rightly suspected that there would be an outcry if it were anything less.

The Prime Minister appeared on television on his way with his family to the 11am service at the St Mary Magdalene Church in Tringdon village in his Hertfordshire constituency. He spoke to the nation without notes, but there was nothing spontaneous about the remarks. His voice cracking with emotion, he described the Princess whom he knew and liked. He expressed sympathy for the two young Princes left without a mother. His own mother had died when he was a child. His words struck a chord with the public.

"We are today a nation in a state of shock, in mourning, in grief that is so deeply painful for us," he said. "She was the People's Princess and that is how she will stay, how she will remain in our hearts and memories for ever." It was a phrase which found its way on to hundreds of bouquets. William Hague, the Leader of the Opposition, immediately announced a cancellation of all party political campaigning. Mr Hague, the same age as the Princess, said from his constituency in Richmond, North Yorkshire: "She was a shining individual who will never be forgotten." The Football Association postponed all matches scheduled in England for that day. It was the first time since the death of George VI in 1952 that all fixtures were called off because of the death of anyone outside the national game.

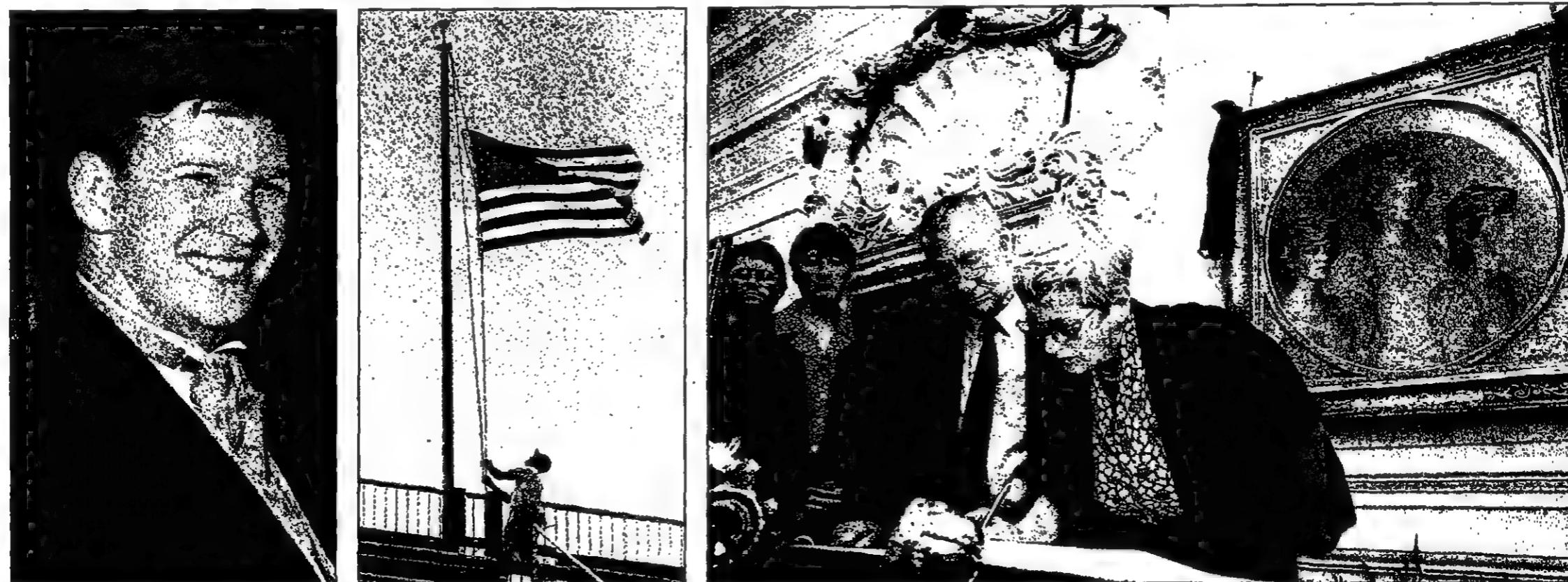
At her Scottish holiday residence, the Queen and the Prince of Wales prepared to face the world. In spite of the appalling news, it was decided that the Royal Family should go to morning service as usual at Crathie Church outside the gates of Balmoral. The young Princes, outwardly calm, were driven slowly to the small parish church where the Royal

MONDAY

CHARLES CRABTREE



On the day after the Princess's death the approach to Kensington Palace had already become a place of pilgrimage. As the days passed, the scene became a sea of floral tributes



Trevor Rees-Jones, left, was seriously injured in the crash. A flag at the US Open tennis championship is lowered to half-mast, and mourners sign a book of condolence in Cardiff

TUESDAY

THOMAS COEX

Family worship during their summer break. The appearance of the boys was at the instigation of the Queen, and against the wishes of the Prince of Wales. It was the first in a series of moves by the Palace which jarred with the public.

Dressed in sombre suits and wearing black ties, the boys

walked into the small granite church with their father, the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. The Prince of Wales, who wore a Highland kilt and a black tie, stared straight ahead, looking red-faced with bloodshot eyes.

The service lasted an hour,

but many among the 100

parishioners who attended

along with the Royal Family

were surprised that no men-

tion was made of the death of

the Princess. The Princes, who

were in the part of the church

reserved for the Royal Family

sat under a bust of Queen

Victoria as they listened to a

sermon by the Rev Robert

Sloan, the Church of Scotland

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People of all ages and sartorial styles made the walk up The Mall to lay their floral tributes to the Princess outside Buckingham Palace

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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES : THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

WEDNESDAY

KEVIN LAMARQUE



Street tribute: passers-by gathering to admire an image of Diana, Princess of Wales, on the pavement in the West End of London. The remarkable likeness was drawn in chalk by Julian Beever



The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brington, where the private family service will be held

Continued from page 16

The Prince remained inside for half-an-hour. Each of the group spent a few minutes alone with the coffin in a first-floor room of the casualty unit.

Outside, the large crowd of French people turned on the small number of British and French journalists at the back entrance of the hospital, yelling angrily: "Assassins."

At 15.00pm, millions of people in Britain watched on their television screens as the coffin emerged from the hospital, carried by four French military pall-bearers, followed by two men carrying bouquets of lilies and gladioli, the Princess's favourite flowers.

The coffin was placed in a steel-blue *Rivage* hearse on which the blinds were drawn. As the Prince came out of the hospital, silence descended on the crowd and he walked straight to his Jaguar, looking neither right nor left. The motorcade moved off with a wail of sirens and blue flashing lights, with the hearse sixth in the convoy. The Princess's journey home was beginning.

Cameramen, undaunted by the wave of outrage at their colleagues who had played a part in the tragedy, followed on motorcycle pillion to record the procession weaving slowly back to the airfield.

For the crowds lining the route to the airport, the sight was traumatic: men and women wept openly and shook their heads in disbelief. Some clapped as they struggled for a suitable gesture. One senior Elysée official said: "Quel jour, quelle horreur."

Out of sight of the public and the press, the body of Dodi Fayed was brought back to Britain by his father, Mohamed Al Fayed, the own-



Harrods staff helping to make queuing at St James's Palace more bearable, and the Princess's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, leaving Oban to prepare for the funeral in London

er of Harrods. Mr Al Fayed begged the French authorities to release the body to ensure that he could comply with Muslim tradition for burials to take place within 24 hours of death. The coffin, draped in black cloth with gold lettering from the Koran, was flown to London on the family jet.

It was taken to the Regent's Park mosque, where 600 mourners gathered for a simple Muslim ceremony which lasted ten minutes. Mr Fayed's coffin was then taken to Brookwood Cemetery in Woking, the biggest privately owned burial ground in Europe, shortly before 10pm.

His funeral was arranged at such speed that the distraught Mr Al Fayed had not had time to choose the plot in which to bury his first-born son's remains. He was left to ponder the choice of two resting spots as the six-car funeral cortège waited by the cemetery gates.

Before the day was out, pressure to find a suitable resting place was growing. The paparazzi were first in line. Earl Spencer, the Princess's brother, aimed higher — their paymasters. He accused newspaper

proprietors and editors of "having blood on their hands" for buying paparazzi pictures.

The dilemma facing Buckingham Palace on Monday morning was acute. In the fine

weather was against such a formal occasion, reserved for monarchs or statesmen such as Sir Winston Churchill. Yet tributes were pouring in from world figures such as Mother

Teresa of Calcutta and President Mandela. British newspapers, led by *The Times*, were clear: "Her legacy should help to protect the monarchy. Not since the Abdication has the Palace needed sound heads as

it does today. The nation will want a state funeral. There should be no impediment to this — least of all from the Palace itself."

Downing Street, sure of its populist touch, was determined to ensure that the Palace discarded its protocol handbook. A series of lengthy off-the-record briefings was given to political correspondents. From these meetings the phrase was born: "The People's Funeral".

By the middle of Monday morning, thousands of people had thronged St James's Palace. They queued for hours to sign five books of condolence, with black-edged pages in black-ringed binders, which were laid out on five tables draped in navy blue cloth.

Portraits of military heroes gazed down.

People cried openly when they filed in. Out of sight of those paying their respects, the body of the Princess lay a few yards away in the Chapel Royal, redolent of the monarchy's history. In the same

chapel, Charles I received Holy Communion before he crossed the park to his execution at Whitehall in 1649. It was the same chapel in which Victoria married Albert in 1840, and the future George V married Queen Mary in 1893. The Princess's body lay by the chapel altar, beneath the elaborate Holbein ceiling and next to a painting which commemorated the marriage of Henry VIII to Anne of Cleves.

The Palace, which was taken aback by the volume of people wanting to leave personal messages, announced that the opening hours would be extended and the doors would remain open 24 hours a day until Friday night.

People had been gravitating towards the gates of Buckingham Palace since at 6am on Sunday, as they desperately sought an outlet for their emotion. They came armed with small posies and sprays of flowers which they had cut from their gardens as the sun rose.

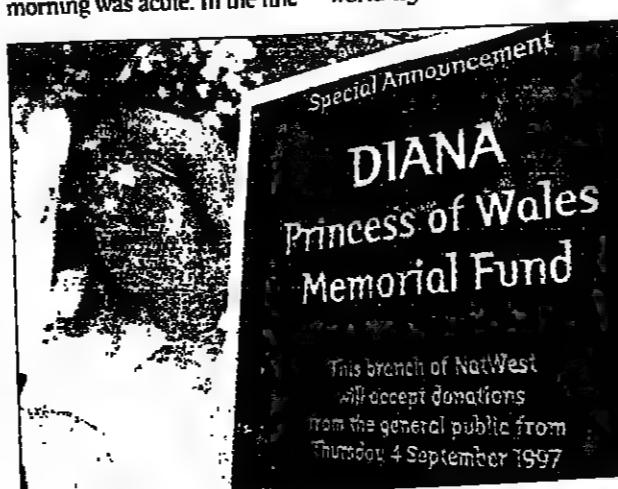
But, in the first of a series of rows about protocol, the police refused to let them lay the bouquets on the ground or attach them to the Palace

railings. They were only carrying out orders. The bylaws forbid such public shows of affection at the royal residences. The police were not given permission to change the rules, even for the death of a Princess.

By 8.30am there were hundreds of people at Buckingham, Kensington and St James's Palace. Almost as one they pressed forward and, in the first of many breaks with tradition, silently pushed the police aside to pay their floral respects. Under pressure of the emotional crowd, the police gave way.

At Kensington Palace, the mourners arrived at a rate of 6,000 an hour. Smart-suited businessmen and women made detours on their way to and from work to pay their respects. Candles flickered next to photographs of the People's Princess. Hushed voices in the lines were awash with sentiment. Some had met her. Most had not. All said they had been touched by her. Young and old. Black and

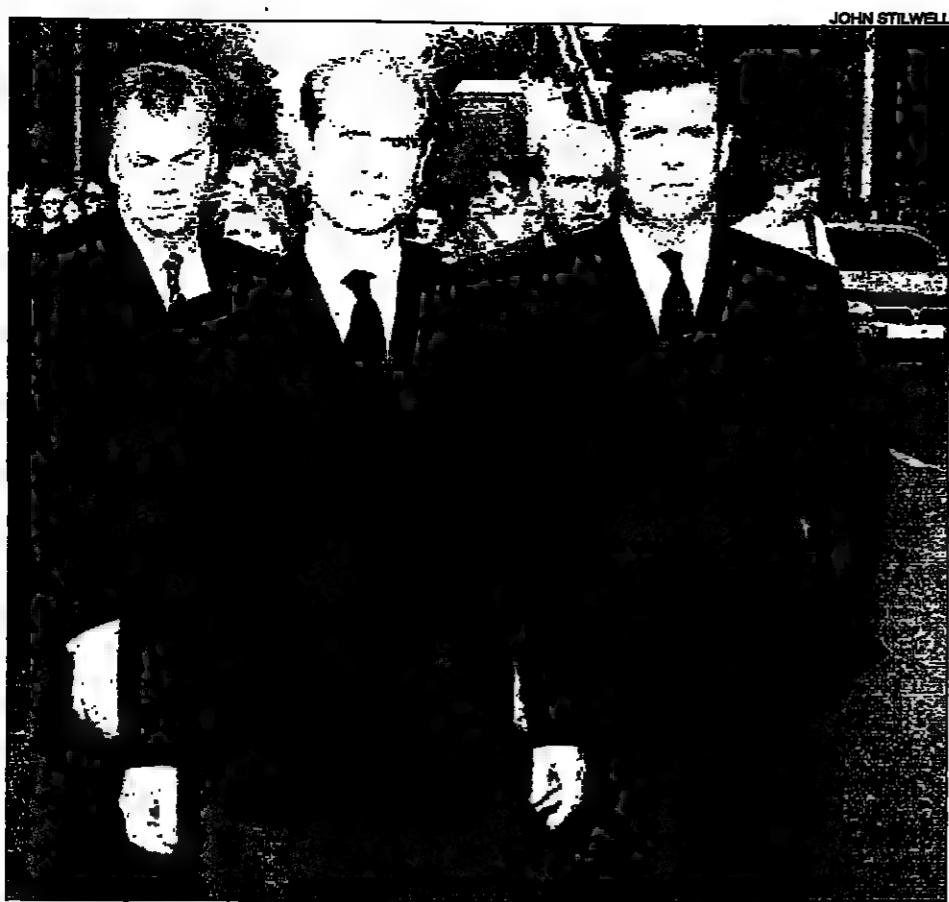
Continued on page 18



print of protocol, the Princess was divorced and, without her HRH status, was no longer in the first-rank of royalty. There could be no state funeral. The small band of royal courtiers masterminding the arrange-

ments was against such a formal occasion, reserved for monarchs or statesmen such as Sir Winston Churchill. Yet tributes were pouring in from world figures such as Mother

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES: THE WEEK THE WORLD MOUINED



THURSDAY



Prince Edward and the Duke of York walking down The Mall, and the Duke of Edinburgh with the Prince of Wales and his sons looking at the floral tributes left by the public outside Balmoral

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white. Some in wheelchairs. By lunchtime, there was dramatic news from Paris. Police blood tests on Henri Paul, the dead driver, showed that he had been at least three times over the French drink-drive limit.

He had been drunk when he set off with the Princess and Mr Fayed from the Ritz hotel. Around the world, the revelation provoked a deep wave of anger and emotion that the safety of the Princess had been entrusted to a drunk who drove at reckless speeds.

Michael Cole, the public affairs director for Harrods, toured the television and radio studios to try to lay the blame firmly at the feet of the photographers. He was only partially successful. The headlines in evening newspapers were unanimous: "The driver was drunk."

As the shock waves reverberated, Buckingham Palace announced "a unique funeral for a unique person" to be held on Saturday, to ensure the maximum number of people could attend. The funeral service would be held at Westminster Abbey and would seat 2,000 mourners. Detachments from the Army, Navy and RAF would accompany the coffin, to be borne on a gun carriage. It was announced that the Princess, in keeping with the wishes of her family, would be laid to rest alongside her father at the Spencer family chapel in Althorp, Northamptonshire (later, this was changed to the family estate). The Palace's offer of Frogmore, a traditional resting place of members of the Royal Family, was rejected by the Spencers.

The Palace announced that it had opted for the shortest possible processional route from St James's to Westminster Abbey, but it soon became clear that the weight of public interest would overwhelm such a brief funeral procession. Those who had made the journey to London to say farewell to their Princess were appalled at the prospect of not being able to see the coffin as it passed by.

Harrods said that it would mark the occasion by closing for only the second Saturday this century. (The store had attracted criticism for remaining open on Sunday.) The last time the shop had closed on a Saturday was for Sir Winston Churchill's funeral. Flowers and candles lay *fit deep* at the doors. The flag on the roof was flown at half mast. The 11,000 bulbs which lit the outside of the store at night were turned off. Roads around Knightsbridge and Kensington were brought to a standstill.

In Cardiff, Birmingham, and Edinburgh, there were similar scenes. A string of cancellations were announced in the worlds of business, arts and sport. Britain would effectively grind to a halt on Saturday, the day of the funeral.

It was announced that the National Lottery draw would be postponed. Cinemas and theatres cancelled shows. Sports events were moved. Banks announced that they would not open. Shops would delay their opening hours. The Saturday football programme was rescheduled. The horse-racing calendar was cancelled at a cost of £300,000. The Braemar Highland Games, held ten miles from Balmoral, were called off for the first time in 180 years. The Queen, the patron, had attended the event nearly every year of her reign.

The nation seemed to unite

as airports, railway stations, and shopping centres announced, unprompted, a two-minute silence at 11am as the funeral service began. Buckingham Palace, still slow to respond to the public mood, was left trailing. Saturday, September 6 was rechristened Silent Saturday.

Officials at St James's Palace could barely believe their eyes on Tuesday morning. The queue, which had grown through the night, was by now seven hours long. Belatedly, the number of condolence books was increased from five to 14. Yet the announcement merely served to increase the number paying tribute. By nightfall, the faithful were waiting nine hours.

For the first time, there was a subtle but decisive shift in the mood of the mourners. They began to talk of frustration and resentment at the apparent aloofness of the Royal Family who had remained in private mourning behind the closed doors of Balmoral Castle.

They bemoaned the absence of a flag at half mast over Buckingham Palace, a visible symbol of royal mourning. Instead, a solitary piece of rope flapped in the wind against the flagpole. Protocol, the Palace declared, dictated that no flag could fly unless the monarch was in residence.

It was not only the public



Status symbol: a poster displayed in The Mall

which failed to understand the distinction. Downing Street and the Prince of Wales battled in vain with the Queen and her advisers to allow the distinctive symbol of royal mourning to be flown on the Palace. The advisers, in a series of increasingly angry exchanges with the Prince of Wales, refused to back down. The explanation cut little ice with the crowds outside, who came to believe that the Royal Family was showing insufficient respect for the mother of the future King.

But the crowds were heartened by reports from France. After an eight-hour court hearing in which the seven photographers were held in handcuffs, the judge ordered a manslaughter inquiry. All but two were released on bail.

To an unsympathetic public, the photographers protested that the police deprived them of sleep for three days and responded to their pleas for water by ordering them to drink from the toilets, all the time demanding the names of the "ones who got away". The photographers' high-profile lawyers complained bitterly that the French Government was managing a witch-hunt.

The police made another, more touching, discovery. In the wreckage of the car they found the ring which Dodi had bought the Princess on Saturday afternoon. Behind the scenes in Britain, there was a growing battle between friends of

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Section 10
7 SEPTEMBER 1997Diana
A tribute

A special 48-page edition of Style devoted to Diana's life

INSIGHT conducts a forensic investigation – a 15-strong reporting team interviews 100 witnesses – to reveal the truth about the tragedy in the tunnel

How the royal family came to terms with Diana's death

Jonathan Dimbleby on the future of the monarchy

1000 1500

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES: THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

FRIDAY



Police officers, surrounded by floral tributes to the Princess, at the gates of Buckingham Palace awaiting the arrival of the Queen, who travelled back to London from Balmoral on the eve of the funeral

Continued from page 19

Princess and the traditionalists led by Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, over the details of the funeral. The old guard was appalled by moves to include any theatrical flourishes which broke with tradition. In the Chinese Drawing Room of Buckingham Palace, Elton John's name was mentioned at a meeting of the committee overseeing the funeral. The suggestion that a pop star should sing at the service started some advisers.

Others felt it was entirely apt. The singer was a close friend of the Princess, a fellow campaigner for Aids charities. Millions remembered the pictures of the Princess comforting the singer at the funeral of Gianni Versace in July. With deadlock about the tone of the funeral, no agreement could be reached. The Queen would have to be consulted; she must take the decision.

With the Prime Minister in full support, the Prince and his officials battled in vain for the Royal Family to emerge from behind the parapeted walls of remote Balmoral and break the silence. It seemed that life was going on there much as normal and it was suggested that a stag-hunting party would take place as planned. The Queen's advisers seemed oblivious to the growing groundswell of unease over their handling of the tragedy.

Small concessions were wrung from the Palace which, having been wrongfooted the previous day on the two-minute silence, decreed there would be a one-minute silence at about 11.45am, when the service was expected to end. But still there was criticism, this time over the failure to specify a precise time for the observation.

The details of the route were formalised. The body would be taken to the abbey on a gun carriage of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery in the manner in which Edward VII, George V, George VI, the Duke of Windsor, Sir Winston Churchill and Earl Mountbatten of Burma made their final journeys in the full panoply of state funerals. With every fresh announcement, the funeral took on more of the complexion of a full state occasion which the Palace had appeared anxious to avoid at the beginning of the week.

The Palace hinted that the young Princes might walk behind their mother's coffin with the Prince of Wales and Earl Spencer, her brother. The devastated boys, it emerged, were being comforted at Balmoral by Alexandra "Tiggy" Legge-Bourke, the former

nanny had who played such a key role in their upbringing.

The immediate shock of the Princess's death was beginning to fade. By Wednesday, after the revelations about the involvement of the paparazzi and the drunken driver, public attention focused firmly on the funeral role of the House of Windsor. Buckingham Palace, which constantly reacted to events rather than dictating them, appeared more isolated than ever. *The Sun*, in a characteristically blunt editorial, accused the family of being out of touch and behaving like aliens from another planet. The Palace responded by increasing the number of condolence books from 15 to 43, the maximum number that the room at St James's Palace could practically hold.

Only one organisation appeared more clumsy than the Palace. The Scottish Football Association inflamed raw emotion by refusing to postpone a World Cup qualifying match on the day of the funeral. It took the personal intervention of the Prime Minister, and the decision by three Scottish national players to withdraw from the line-up if the match were not called off, to force the SFA to retreat.

As questions continued to be asked about the hermit-like existence of the Royal Family, Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of the Princess, broke her silence. As she left her remote island home in the West of Scotland to join her other children in London for the funeral, she thanked people for their prayers and support. Dressed in black and looking tired and drawn, she said: "I thank God for the gift of Diana and for all her loving and giving. I give her back to Him with my love, pride and admiration to rest in peace."

As questions continued to be asked about the hermit-like existence of the Royal Family, Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of the Princess, broke her silence. As she left her remote island home in the West of Scotland to join her other children in London for the funeral, she thanked people for their prayers and support. Dressed in black and looking tired and drawn, she said: "I thank God for the gift of Diana and for all her loving and giving. I give her back to Him with my love, pride and admiration to rest in peace."

In London, the Metropolitan Police added to the Royal Family's difficulties by criticising the absence of refreshment facilities for the mourners after Palace authorities had banned mobile vendors from operating in The Mall and St James's Park. Mohamed Al Fayed to sent Harrods vans with volunteer staff to dispense tea, coffee and sandwiches to the thousands queuing for 10 hours to sign the condolence books, as concern grew for their welfare.

There was still concern that the short funeral route would not meet the expectations of the crowd. The Prince of Wales feared that hundreds of thousands of people would be denied access to what promised to be an unprecedented show of national emotion. It was at his personal intervention that the route to Westminster Abbey was doubled, the coffin now starting from Kensington Palace.

And in a further move to

defuse growing public hostility, the Palace issued a statement acknowledging the extraordinary nationwide wave of sympathy for the Princess. "All the Royal Family, especially the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry, are taking strength from the overwhelming support of the public who are sharing their tremendous sense of loss and grief. They are deeply touched and enormously moved."

Sandy Henney, a Palace official, defended the family's decision to stay at Balmoral out of public view. The Royal Family, she said, were grief-stricken. They were sharing their sadness together as a family at home. It was announced that the Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother would arrive in London on Saturday morning.

But even as Ms Henney spoke, Lord Blake, the constitutional historian and adviser to Buckingham Palace, gave an interview to *The Times* in which he said that the Queen should broadcast to the nation to try to limit any more damage. He said: "They are sticking too much to the rulebook. There always has to be a great deal of protocol and precedent in royal matters. But it would hardly set any dangerous precedents if they relinquished the rulebook on this special occasion. There will never be another Princess Diana."

Newspapers the next day were almost unanimous in their criticism of the arrangements made on behalf of the Royal Family. A leading article in *The Times* said that, to many, the adherence to precedent over the royal flags was "unsympathetic and incomprehensible". It continued: "A principal function of the modern monarchy



Mourners pause to examine the growing floral tributes on the lawns of Westminster Abbey, many of which carried heartfelt messages

lies in a symbolism of whose potency the late Princess was the supreme exponent. What is the nation to make of silence and absence at a time of vocal and visible lamentation?

There were many more in the same vein. The *Daily Mail* argued that reigning houses rose and fell on their ability to symbolise the deepest feelings of the people they served, and

warned that "the nation's sorrow could turn to anger".

Stuart Higgins, the Editor of *The Sun*, working in his sixth-floor office in the News International building in Wapping, penned his most virulent attack on the Queen. In a front-page editorial he demanded: "Where is the Queen when the country needs her? She is 550 miles from London, the focal point of the nation's grief." The empty flagpole at the Palace was an "insult to Di's memory". More than 40,000 *Sun* readers rang a special hotline to demand a public show from the Royal Family.

All newspaper editors had been invited to the funeral. Earl Spencer telephoned the editors of all six tabloids personally, with Mr Higgins high on his list, to ask them not to attend. Although some had already accepted invitations from Buckingham Palace, they agreed, reluctantly, to stay away.

By Thursday lunchtime, the final vigil for the Princess was under way, 60 hours before the nation united for the funeral. People with umbrellas, sleeping bags and suitcases full of mourning clothes started to reserve places on the pavements outside Westminster Abbey. What had begun

as a mere handful of bouquets placed carefully at the gates of Kensington Palace, in the hours after the Princess's death, was transformed into a sea of flowers 5ft high, spreading out 70ft. Children had left their favourite teddy bears.

Buckingham Palace finally spunned the retreat. It was the end game of the tragedy. In a momentous day, Thursday saw protocol and precedent dramatically overturned to meet the mood of the people. In a whirlwind of activity, all the changes demanded by public opinion unfolded by the hour. In a victory for the Prime Minister and the Prince of Wales against the Windsor tradition, the Queen bowed to public pressure and announced that she would break with precedent and return early to London and broadcast to the nation on Friday night.

The sense of a country united in loss was strengthened by the move.

For the first time, as soon as the Queen set off for the funeral, the Royal Standard above Buckingham Palace would be replaced by a Union Flag flying at half-mast. Despite strong opposition from some of the Queen's closest advisers, Elton John was asked to sing at the abbey. The

service would mix pop with liturgy. The Queen also changed her original plans to travel overnight on the royal train to arrive in London this morning.

On Thursday evening the Royal Family emerged from the seclusion of Balmoral to attend a special church service.

They paused outside the castle gates for five minutes while the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, the two young Princes and Peter Phillips, the son of the Princess Royal, stood among the lilies, chrysanthemums, sunflowers, carnations and roses which bore witness to the scale of national grief.

The Queen wore black. The Duke and Prince of Wales wore kilts, while the Princes William and Harry were in suits. Prince Harry clung to his father's hand as he leaned to read a card. It said of his mother: "We will always remember you. You were a ray of sunshine."

Prince William, who seemed ill at ease at first, pointed out cards to his father and the Queen. It was a touching display of closeness which, with their agreement, was in full public view. A Palace

official maintained the line that the appearance was not in response to public criticism. "This is a family going to church for private prayers."

At Kensington Palace the people who had come to grieve, who christened themselves "Diana's Army", were exultant.

When those with radios passed on the news that the Queen was to address the nation, applause rippled along the ribbon of people stretching outside the walls of St James's Palace. And when Prince Edward and the Duke of York went to St James's Palace to pay their respects to the Princess on Thursday, they were mobbed by the crowds.

The Royal Family, which had so often appeared to be stumbling in the wake of events and never quite catching them up during a week of unparalleled national sadness, was now fully in line with the public mood.

But as the country unites for the funeral today, the activity of the past 48 hours suggested the first glimpse of a monarchy which was at last learning the lesson of the Princess's life: that they should be responsive and spontaneous — and not afraid to show that they, too, have hearts.



A solitary candlelit vigil outside the abbey



FUNERAL DAY

A time to pray and praise

All this week, Britain has lurched between pandemonium and paradise. Today, perhaps, as Diana, Princess of Wales, is laid to rest, the nation may recover its equilibrium. Last Sunday we awoke as if to a nightmare. But it was all true; and it got worse. A hideous tale unfolded, each new twist of which plunged the country into deeper despair. Then an extraordinary, almost uncanny process began. Spontaneously, but as if bidden by an unseen hand, people roused themselves from collective despondency and took their private grief onto the streets of London. Every place associated with the lady they loved became a shrine. The great flood of emotion which swelled up and flowed into every corner of the kingdom eventually reached the gates of Balmoral.

That tide of inchoate sorrow was so powerful that it could not but summon up memories of past conflicts between the dead Princess and the House of Windsor. All who had sympathised with Diana in life now expected some gesture of compassion, of reconciliation beyond the grave. For a brief moment it seemed as though the Royal Family were deaf to these well-intentioned, if sometimes irreverently expressed, entreaties particularly of the younger generation. Instead of urging the Queen to use the monarchy's potent symbolism to anticipate events, some courtiers urged a purely reactive policy. Had the Queen and the Prince of Wales hesitated much longer, there was a real danger that public sorrow might turn to resentment or wrath. Fortunately the Sovereign seems for once to have deferred to her heir. Prince Charles may have sensed that his prospects as King depended on the Royal Family modifying the stoic impassivity which had served so well in time of war.

However it came about, the display of royal *glasnost* over the past three days has transformed an ominous mood into one of relief. Last night's broadcast by the Queen was a gracious gesture both to her departed daughter-in-law and to her subjects. It was all the more impressive for being live: a precedent which the Queen and future monarchs would do well to follow. The return of Prince William and Prince Harry to take private leave of their mother in the Chapel Royal will have softened the hardest republican heart. The Princes and their father deserve gratitude for choosing to share this most poignant moment of truth with their fellow mourners outside St James's Palace.

Now that the Royal Family is reunited in the capital, it is time to place the debate about the monarchy temporarily aside. The House of Windsor has implicitly acknowledged the rights and opinions of the people in a matter which concerns both deeply. In the weeks and months to come it will become clear whether the impact of this week's trauma has been to weaken the institution of monarchy or whether a new bond has been forged between Queen and country. Today, though, the nation will wish to remember the woman for whose sake it has gathered together in homage and to bid farewell.

Diana was neither saint nor martyr. But she was touched by a kind of greatness. Without that divine spark, her magnetism, which exceeded that of all her contemporaries, would be inexplicable. Her loveliness — rendered more intense by the shyness and vulnerability which never left her — was a vital part of her appeal; no less important was her character. Misfortune steered her from birth. An aristocrat and a star, she could be, on occasion, proud and capricious. Life at court taught her to be suspicious of everybody; because she was betrayed by many she thought of as insiders, she sought companionship and eventually love among outsiders. She also discovered, especially during and after her marriage broke down, an inner resilience which sustained her through dark times when the black dog snapped at her heels.

Like any strong character, she had powerful aversions. If latterly she sometimes seemed to reject the attitudes of those to whom she belonged by birth and marriage, she was no less angry when it seemed to reject her. The iron in her soul was, however, never corrosive. As the years went by, she learnt to concentrate on her talent for empathy, not only with the suffering masses but also with individuals.

Much has been and will be written about Diana's good works. It is right that charity workers should predominate in her cortège, right too that she should be buried most of all by the sick, the maimed, the outcasts, the beggars. Some will go further, and say that all the expense of today's funeral, and the countless sums spent this week on flowers in her honour, would have been better spent on charity. We doubt whether that would have been her wish. More likely she would have identified with the story St John the Evangelist tells of Mary, sister of Martha and of Lazarus, who anointed the feet of Jesus with costly ointment of spikenard, and wiped his feet with her hair. When Judas protested that the precious perfume should have been sold to raise alms for the poor, Jesus answered: 'Let her alone.'

against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.'

What of the funeral itself? There has been universal praise for the order of service. That praise is warranted, all the more so because there were many pitfalls to be avoided. This is, after all, no longer a purely Christian country, nor did Diana belong solely to her own compatriots; she was a true citizen of the world. So it was important to let her funeral embrace those of all faiths and of none, while in no way compromising its Christian, and specifically Anglican, spirituality.

The service is punctuated and framed by the language of the Book of Common Prayer. Though the words derive from Thomas Cranmer, they incorporate more ancient ideas that precede the Reformation; their universality, these prayers transcend all that is sectarian. With their echoes of Old Testament and New, they embrace the whole Judeo-Christian tradition. When combined with the glory of English choral music, they will convey something of our history to the ends of the earth. A gesture to Roman Catholics is the inclusion of the *Libera me* from one of the most awe-inspiring settings of the requiem mass, Verdi's. Diana loved this music; we can only guess why. The medieval verses by Thomas de Celano which evoke so vividly the day of judgement, *dies magna et amara valde*, should remind us that no human judgment passed on the Princess can ever be final. Central to the ceremony are the words which remain among the most familiar in the English language: the prayer which Jesus taught us.

Such hallowed ritual can well afford to be interspersed with informal elements, even if they are not conventionally religious. Elton John's song *Candle in the Wind* is appropriate for all its sentimentality (which some may think mawkish), both because the Princess would have liked it, and because the improvisatory nature of popular music allows it to be rewritten for the occasion. There is a place in any funeral for the ephemeral as well as the eternal. And it is as well to reflect that even the oldest religious traditions are young in the sight of God.

This funeral also embodies a robust patriotism, expressed variously in the Englishness of "Numrod" from Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and *I vow to thee, my country*, the Welshness of

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, the Irishness of the Air from *County Derry*, and the Britishness of the National Anthem. These hymns are the inheritance of every citizen of the United Kingdom. The Princess was a patriot, but one of a very modern stamp: she knew how to make immigrants from every ethnic background, and especially their children, feel that they belonged here, that they too were British. It was in this respect that her charitable work and that of Prince Charles complemented one another best: she, like him, found Muslims anything but alien. Far from detracting from the high solemnity of the day, this patriotism is another means of binding up the wounds of a traumatised people. Hymns are the vocal expression of our nationhood, and when several million voices sing out this morning across the land, it will be the audible proof that she did not live in vain.

There will inevitably be much discussion of the propriety of the Spencer family's siting the Princess's grave in the private grounds at Althorp. Given Earl Spencer's angry comments earlier this week about the press, any advice offered to him may be counter-productive. Yet it is not too late to reconsider. What must be assumed is the decision of a bereaved brother will inevitably be seen as premature, not merely by the media, but also by the millions who mourns his sister. However embittered he is by bad experiences at the hands of paparazzi, the Earl will not wish to compromise public sympathy for his family. Access to the tomb of this most modern heroine must be open. Diana belongs to all.

What should be the Princess's epitaph? One of our earliest royal epitaphs is that of Ethelburga, Queen of the West Saxons, who died in circa AD 617. It concludes: "I travel'd here I lie; Liv'd in the World, that to the World now die." To do justice to Diana, lines less melancholy, but no less paradoxical and elegiac, will be needed. Diana is dear to us not least because she has given the British a reason to believe that they can again do remarkable things — that they have something unique to give to humanity.

Politicians can occasionally convey that sense of service to the world. Churchill certainly achieved this, as for a while did Margaret Thatcher; Tony Blair looks likely to emulate them. But there is a plane above that of politics, a spiritual sphere whence a rare individual can inspire a nation. Diana could do what no politician could do: reach out to the underdogs, to those who thought they had nothing to lose and show them that they had everything to gain. When even a figure such as Mother Teresa, the most revered woman of her time, saw such potential for good, such grace and generosity in Diana, it is clear that the world has sustained an irreparable loss.

Shock, hysteria or people's yearning?

From Mr Toby Kempster.

Sir, The level of shock and strength of feeling over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has clearly taken a great many people, including the media, by surprise. However, is there not a danger in the media taking up the public mood of becoming judgmental about those who are not openly manifesting a sense of grief?

Everyone will have recognised a tragic loss of young lives in wretched circumstances on Sunday morning, but we do not all feel a sense of personal loss or grief. While Diana's death is, therefore, quite properly being marked by a public funeral, it would be unfortunate if to be seen out and about on Saturday otherwise than in a state of mourning were to lead to instant condemnation.

The Somerfield supermarket chain, for example, has been forced by public pressure to close its stores on Saturday morning, despite the fact that all profits were to go to the Red Cross anti-landmines charity. Further, there are demands that the Chief Executive to the Scottish Football Association resign as a result of his misjudging or failing to mirror the public sense of grief.

Despite the legitimate concerns over media intrusion into Diana's private life and the involvement of such intrusions in her death, have we not already seen inappropriate inquiries and intrusions being made into what is surely a very private and difficult moment for the Royal Family? It seems to have been forgotten that they after all organised the public funeral for a Saturday morning so as to ensure that as many people as possible could witness the funeral procession.

For a nation apparently united in grief last Sunday it is sad that divisions are already beginning to appear, in what is in danger of becoming a witch-hunt of those not publicly grieving.

Yours faithfully,
TOBY KEMPSTER,
Old Square Chambers,
Hanover House,
47 Corn Street, Bristol.
September 5.

From the Reverend Peter Townley

Sir, Ministering to somebody's grief is a world away from pandering to self-indulgence and hysteria.

What we have witnessed this week is media-managed mourning, which has hardly been altogether healthy.

At no point have we been encouraged to stop and reflect upon what all this says to us about the spiritual yearning and poverty of our nation as a whole. This is the issue that needs to be tackled by us all.

Yours,
P. K. TOWNLEY,
St Mary-le-Tower Vicarage,
8 Forrester Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.
September 5.

From Mr B. G. Birkhead

Sir, It is hard to explain how individuals who had never met the Princess, let alone had a chance to become acquainted with her other than through their children, feel that they belonged here, that they too were British. It was in this respect that her charitable work and that of Prince Charles complemented one another best: she, like him, found Muslims anything but alien. Far from detracting from the high solemnity of the day, this patriotism is another means of binding up the wounds of a traumatised people. Hymns are the vocal expression of our nationhood, and when several million voices sing out this morning across the land, it will be the audible proof that she did not live in vain.

I have tried, and failed, to put myself, for example, in the mind of someone who will wait for hours in a queue to sign a book of condolences, when silent prayer will effect all but the visibility of the expression. I also wonder at the near martyrdom of the Princess perpetrated by a press that persecuted her whilst she was alive.

There is perhaps a sense in which the public feels it ought to behave in this way, and many are fulfilling this expectation. There may also be some subconscious expression of disapproval of the monarchy in such demonstrations. Whatever the reasons, I doubt that they constitute genuine grief.

As far as the press are concerned, guilt must surely tinge their eulogies.

There is something unhealthy about what we are witnessing. A sense of proportion and realism has been lost.

Yours,
BRIAN G. BIRKHEAD,
Osprey House,
Friary Road, Ascot, Berkshire.
September 5.

From Mr Kenneth Stern

Sir, Much of the reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has gone beyond what is reasonable to the point of hysteria, fuelled by a press which, after a couple of days, has returned to its habitual irresponsibility.

I am especially appalled by the media attacks on the Royal Family. These are people who have devoted lifetimes to the service of the nation and of countless charities, usually without the glare of publicity which the late Princess seemed to invite. Why should they appear in public at this time to satisfy the demands of the insensitive curios?

I hope that after Saturday's ceremonies the nation will quickly recover its sense of balance.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH STERN,
555 Park West, Edgware Road, W2.
September 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for Parliament to act on privacy

From Mr Malcolm Wicks, MP for Croydon North (Labour)

Sir, Following the Paris tragedy and public revulsion against the media's role, the fight back by the tabloids and their (temporarily embarrassed) apologists is well under way. To thwart the introduction of privacy laws numerous reasons are being advanced in favour of inaction.

We are assured that, if British editors did not write their cheques for these photographs, others elsewhere, in Europe or the US, would do so. Thus Britain, by implication, must conform to the lowest common denominator of international morality.

It has also been suggested that it is not only the media but the readers who should share the blame, for it is the public that has the appetite for these things: so what is an ethical tabloid editor to do? Surely this not only negates any notion of individual responsibility, let alone leadership, but is similar to arguing that public executions should never have been banned because there was always a crowd.

Then we are told that it is, in any case, technically and legally impossible to ban this material. The public is asked to believe that its decent instinct, that intrusive photographs of individuals should not be published.

I believe that Parliament must listen to the people.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM WICKS,
House of Commons.
September 4.

cannot be translated into law.

If all these arguments fail, I suspect we will be directed from lofty heights to believe that any curtailment of the media will disturb their heroic mission to unearth corruption and tyranny, as if Parliament is not capable of legislating for both a freedom of information Act and a privacy Act.

Finally the chestnut of self-regulation will be dusted down and paraded. The Press Complaints Commission, which I would describe as a wholly owned subsidiary of the media, may well vie for the title of Britain's most supine public body, occasionally huffing and puffing, but wholly discredited in many eyes.

A number of proprietors, editors, columnists and paparazzi themselves may try to dominate the public debate in defence of their financial interests.

In the opposing corner will be public opinion that cries out for a greater decency, and simply cannot stomach the thought of photographers clambering on to the mangled car of the dead and dying.

I believe that Parliament must listen to the people.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM WICKS,
House of Commons.
September 4.

Dignity of sorrow borne in silence

From Lady Lowry, QC

Sir, My generation remember a shy young Princess broadcasting to the Commonwealth on her twenty-first birthday, promising to dedicate her whole life to her people and asking for their help to fulfil this promise.

Through sorrow and joy Her Majesty has kept that promise. At this most difficult time have we not failed her by not understanding how her generation was taught to bear grief with dignity in silence?

Yours faithfully,

BARBARA CALVERT,
159 Ashley Gardens,
Thirleby Road, SW1.
September 5.

A little distance

From Mr Bruce Andrews

Sir, The death of Princess Diana is profoundly tragic but the response of the press, and through the press of the public, is overblown and ephemeral.

It is sad that the Royal Family should succumb to pressure with hasty departures from tradition. It is the essence of our royalty that it should be a little distant, a little different from other mortals. Royal tradition should only be abandoned after slow and careful consideration.

Yours sincerely,

BRUCE ANDREWS,
4 Watford Close, Guildford, Surrey.
September 5.

From Mr Christopher Blum

Sir, One of the most common reasons given for the outpouring of national grief over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is that "we feel we actually knew her". It is a bitter irony that the reason that many of us feel this is almost entirely due to the enormous amount of press intrusion into every aspect of her life.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER BLUM,
218 Ladbroke Grove, W10.

Floral tribute

From Sister Julian Falkus, OSB

Sir, Of course the money spent on flowers in remembrance of Princess Diana could have been given to charity, as Peter Rushforth suggests (letter, September 3), but flowers are the sign of love. I refer Mr Rushforth to Mary of Bethany, who poured out a huge amount of priceless ointment over Christ before his death. She was to be remembered for this for all time (John xii, 1-8). The scent filled the entire house, just as the beauty and scent of those flowers must fill the air.

There will always be charities to support but only this chance to show such a tangible sign of corporate love.

Yours sincerely,

JULIAN FALKUS,
St Mary's Abbey, Stanbrook,
Callow End, Worcestershire.

Sunday observance

From Mr Rhodri Howell

Sir, It is a sad reflection on our society today that so many high street shops will be closing for Diana on Saturday, but not for God on Sunday.

Yours faithfully,

RHODRI HOWELL,
32 Northampton Street, Cambridge.
ral1006@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Thoughts on a solid and lasting tribute to the Princess

From Mr A. I. C. Black

Sir, The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund is only a partial solution, as it has no physical presence by which people may remember her.

I would like to see a Garden of Remembrance, which all could visit and which would commemorate the good causes which she made her own.

The location for such a garden seems ready made: Hyde Park. The area of the park near Speaker's Corner would benefit enormously from a feature such as this.

It would be a permanent reminder, not least for the Princess, of the affection that their mother commanded from the people.

Yours faithfully,
A. I. C. BLACK,
18 Bridle Road,

SOCIAL NEWS

Lincolnshire
Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants for Lincolnshire:
Mr D.K. Baker; Lady Benton Jones; Lady Bruce-Gardyne; Mr R.J. Epton; Mr J.F. Fane; Mr F.A. Fear; Major-General R.E.J. Gerrard-Wright; Mrs V.M. Petifer; Mrs Z.M. Soley; Mr A.A.F. Terry; Brigadier E.J.W. Walker.

Legal appointments

Mr Lawrence Antony Collins, QC, and Mr Arthur Leslie Marriott, QC, have been authorised by the Lord Chancellor to sit as Deputy High Court Judges with immediate effect. They are the first solicitors to be so authorised.

School news

Epsom College
The Michaelmas Term begins on Sunday, September 7, with 660 pupils at the College. We welcome the second year of girls starting at 13, as the College moves to full co-education. Mr Michael Horrocks-Taylor takes over as Housemaster of Carr House on the retirement of Mr Eric Huxter, and Mr Graeme Lodge as Housemaster of Crawford House on the retirement of Mr Keith Douglas. The new statue of St Luke will be dedicated by the Bishop of Winchester on Saturday, November 29. The Head of School for the term will be Giles Tongue.

Heathfield School

Term begins today at Heathfield with Zoe Firmin as Head Girl and Viktoria Lewis as Deputy Head Girl. Major Academic Scholarships for Vth Form A' Level studies have been awarded to Venetia Welby and Francesca Yarde-Buller. The Vth Form Art Scholar is Marumi Nakamura. A Vth Form Science Exhibition has been awarded to Zoe Firmin and a Vth Form Modern Languages Exhibition to Emily Sandy. An Academic Exhibition on entry to Form I has been awarded to Emily Paterson-Morgan (Garden House, London) and an Art Scholarship to Natasa Stryjskis (Godstow School, Buckinghamshire). Assessment Day for September 1998 entrants will take place on Saturday, October 18. Further details may be obtained from the Registrar (01344 882955). Enquiries for entry to the Sixth Form in September 1998 should also be made to the Registrar. There will be a period in school of *Lark Rise* on November 19, 20, 21 and 22, at 7.45pm. St Nicholas' will be held in the Sports Hall on Saturday, November 29, from 1.30pm. Parents, Old Girls and friends of the school are very welcome to attend.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Marie-Joseph, Marquis de Lafayette, statesman and soldier, Chavagnac, France, 1757; John Dalton, chemist and physicist, Enfield, Cumbria, 1766; Sir Walford Davies, composer, Oswestry, Shropshire, 1869; John James Macleod, physiologist, pioneer of insulin, Nobel laureate 1923; New Clunie, Tayside, 1876; Sir Edward Appleton, physicist, Nobel laureate 1947, Bradford, 1992.

DEATHS: Jean Baptiste Colbert, statesman, Paris, 1683; George Alexander Stevens, dramatist and song writer, Baldock, Hertfordshire, 1784; King James II, reigned 1685-88, St Germain, France, 1701; Arthur Rackham, illustrator, Surrey, 1939; Gertrude Lawrence, actress, New York, 1952; Hendrik Verwoerd, President of South Africa 1958-66, assassinated, Cape Town, 1966.

The Great Fire of London was finally extinguished, 1666.

The first British telephone exchange opened in Lombard Street, London, 1879.

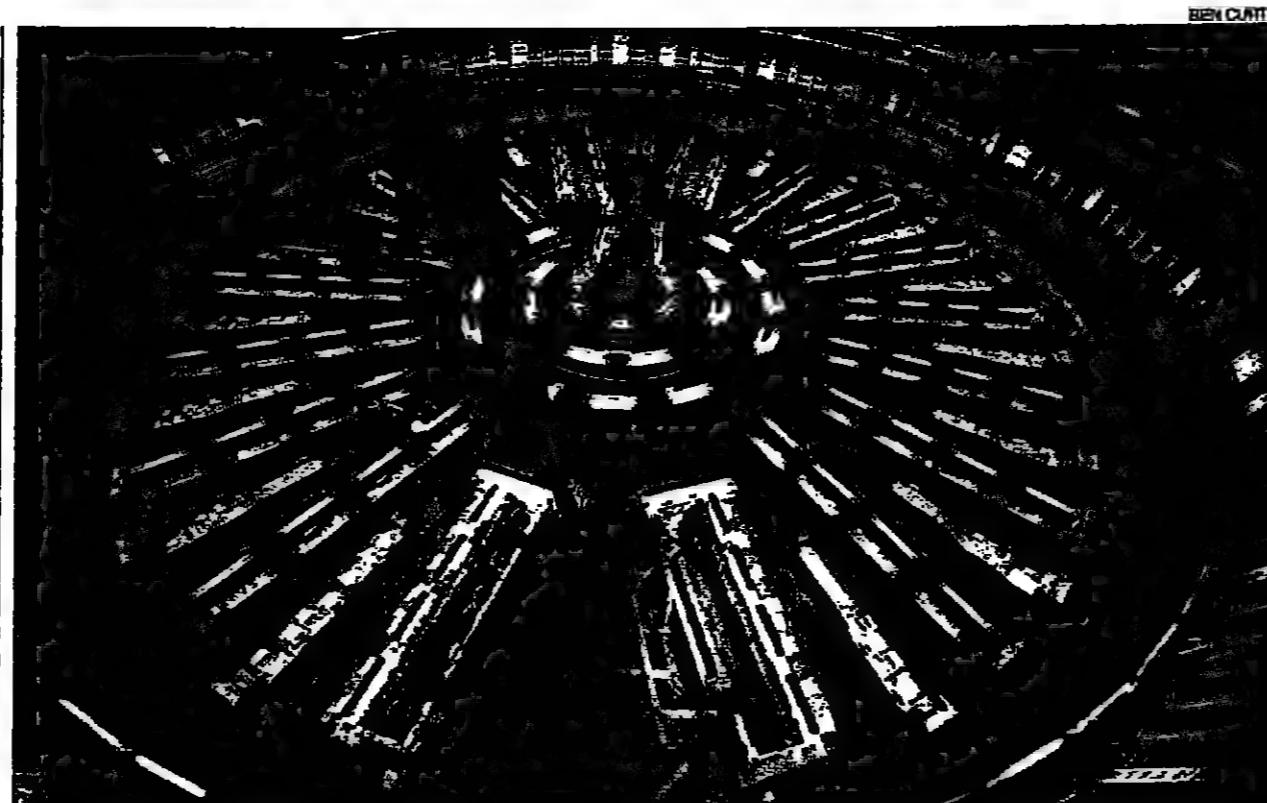
The Kingdom of Swaziland in Southern Africa gained its independence, 1968.

Dinner

English-Speaking Union
Sir Richard Eyre, Director of the Royal National Theatre, was the guest of honour and speaker at the opening dinner of the English-Speaking Union's 1997 Cultural Seminar held last night at Dartmouth House. The Rev Peter Brigstocke, chairman, presided.

Appointments

The Rev Michael H. Taylor, Director of Christian Aid, to be President of the Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham from January 1, 1998. Mr Christopher Brown, Headmaster of Norwich School, has become Chairman of the Choir Schools' Association, in succession to Mr John Baxter, Headmaster of Wells Cathedral School.



An 80ft high cherry-picker crane has been manoeuvred into the Round Reading Room of the British Museum so that experts can investigate the techniques and materials used to build it in 1857. This picture, giving a bird's-eye view of the room, was taken from it. The reading room is to be restored to as near its original appearance as possible, as part of the museum's Great Court project, to be completed in the year 2000. The dome of the room has a diameter of 140ft, larger than St Paul's Cathedral or St Peter's, Rome

Looted Kabul treasures
will be returned

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

UNIQUE antiquities from the looted Kabul museum in Afghanistan have been recovered by a cultural organisation in neighbouring Pakistan. They will be returned to Kabul when stability returns and the museum is re-opened.

Among the objects recovered are six classical plaster medallions, part of the legacy of Alexander the Great in Central Asia, and stone seals documenting trade 4,000 years ago. They have been acquired by the Society for the Preservation of Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage (SPACH), set up by Nancy Dupree, an archaeologist who spent many years in Kabul.

The Pakistani city of Peshawar, at the south end of the Khyber Pass, is the centre of the trade in archaeological objects smuggled out of Afghanistan. Among the other objects recovered were two stone seals, originally excavated at Shortugai on the Oxus (Amu-Darya) river on the borders of the former Soviet Union.

"The Shortugai seal provides rare material evidence of trade between northern Afghanistan and the Harappan civilisation," Ms Dupree said.

Both genuine and forged Bactrian documents, the former looted from ancient sites in northern Afghanistan, have appeared on the London antiquities market, according to Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams of London University.

"Many of the Hellenistic and early Roman originals of these plaster replicas have never been found: the plasters were made in the 1st century AD as a way of replicating Mediterranean silverware in Central Asia," said Ms Dupree, adding that they had been recovered "after several months of hard bargaining".

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Weekend birthdays

TODAY:

The Right Rev John Bickersteth, former Bishop of Bath and Wells, 76; Mr B.G. Booth, Vice-Chancellor, University of Central Lancashire, 55; Mr Sherban Cantacuzino, former secretary, Royal Fine Art Commission, 69; Sir Derman Christopher, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Durham University, 82.

Mr Tim Henman, tennis player, 23; Sir Andrew Hug Smith, former chairman, London Stock Exchange, 66; Sir John Johnson, former chairman, Countryside Commission and former diplomat, 67; Mr Roger Knight, secretary, MCC; Sir Colin McCall, former diplomat, 65; Mr George Mann, former chairman, TCCB, 80; Miss Monica Mason, ballerina, 56; Lord O'Hagan, 52; Sir Peter Pahn, former High Court judge, 84; Sir James Stubbsfield, FRS, geologist, 96; Mr J.R.C. Young, former rugby player and former chief executive, Securities and Investments Board, 60.

TOMORROW:

Mr John Baxter, Head Master, Wells Cathedral School, 58; Major Sir William Winton-Bercher, 22; Professor Malcolm Bradbury, novelist, 65; Lord Charteris of Amisfield, 64; Mr Kevin Curran, cricketer, 38; Mr J. Paul Getty, II, KBE, philanthropist, 65; Mr Peter Gill, stage director, 58; Mr Christopher Green, former chief executive, English Heritage, 54; Miss M.G. Hampshire, former Principal, Cheltenham Ladies' College, 75; Miss Dianne Hayter, former



Roger Law, satirist and puppeteer, is 56 today

chief executive, European Parliamentary Labour Party, 48; Lord Jenkins of Roding, 71; Mr Eli Kazan, author, producer and director, 88; Mr Justice Ian Kennedy, 67.

The Marquess of Londonderry, 80; Sir Douglas Lovelock, former chairman, HM Board of Customs and Excise, 74; Professor Sir Brian Pippard, FRS, physicist, 77; Mr Gordon Richards, racehorse trainer, 67; Mr Michael Robbins, former president, Society of Antiquaries of London, 82; Sir Neil Shiels, former chairman, Commission for the New Towns, 78; Judge A. Simonds, 61; Mr Andrew Stone, joint managing director, Marks & Spencer, 55; Air Marshal Sir John Whitley, 92; Mr Bruce Yardley, cricketer, 50.

ON THIS DAY

September 6, 1986

Neil Jordan's film *Mona Lisa* earned Bob Hoskins the Best Actor award at Cannes Film Festival and brought its creator high praise. Anna Kythreots interviewed him.

shooting the film. I don't feel alive unless I'm working."

Jordan has the arduous look of someone with an imminent dental appointment: it added an expression of vulnerability to the large, generous features of his boyish face. His voice is soft, his accent lyrical and he has a habit of leaving sentences unfinished.

He is reticent about himself. "I was born in Sligo. I was brought up in Dublin. I live in Bray now. I got into movies by accident — most people do." He is 36. Involved in Irish politics and culture he founded the Irish Writers Cooperative in 1974, he has made an effort to stay in Ireland, though now thinks it might be more

Church

news

Appointments
The Rev Christine Challenger, Chaplain (part-time NSM), South Community and Mental Health NHS Trust (York); to be Vicar of Middlesbrough, St Chad (same diocese).

The Rev Valerie Clarke, Assistant Curate, Sherburn-in-Elmet (York); to be Assistant Curate within the Brayton Team Ministry, with special responsibility for Thorpe Willoughby (same diocese).

The Rev Brian Chave, Bishop's Staff Officer and Diocesan Communications Officer (Hereford); to be also Non-Resident Canon and Prebendary de Motore Magna of Hereford Cathedral.

The Rev Colin Cheeseman, Chaplain, HM Prison, Westgate (York); to be Priest-in-Charge, Tockwold and Bilton with Bickererton (same diocese).

The Rev Richard Clarkson, Assistant Curate, Sunnyside with Bourne End (St Albans); to be also Rural Dean of Berkhamsted (same diocese).

The Rev John Clasper, Team Rector, East Darlington Team (Durham); to the Vicar, Fenham, St James and St Bath, Newcastle.

The Rev Robin Davitt, Assistant Curate (NSM), Crayke, W Bransby and Yesterley (York); to be half-time stipendiary Priest-in-Charge of the benefice (same diocese).

The Rev Paul Griffiths, Priest-in-Chairman of Tolerton, St Peter, Chaplain to the Boots Company and Chaplain to Central Television (Southwell); to be also Diocesan Adviser on Industrial Society (same diocese).

The Rev Richard Hayes, Senior Curate, Downend, Christ Church (Bristol); to be Vicar, Gravesend, St Mary (Rochester).

The Rev William Hedley, Vicar, Norton (York); to be Curate, Newburn with special responsibility for Throckley (Newcastle). Canon Paul Jobson, Vicar, Seaham w Seaham Harbour (Durham); to be Vicar, Pimlico, St Saviour's (London).

The Rev Nicholas Jones, Curate, Cambridge, Holy Trinity (Ely); to be Group Vicar, Fulbourn w Great Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom and also Chaplain, St Bede's School (same diocese).

The Rev Dian Leppington, Industrial Chaplain (Ripon); to be Chaplain, University of Teesside (York); to be Priest-in-Charge, West Team Ministry (same diocese).

The Rev Dr John Parr, Priest-in-Charge, Harston w Hauxton (Ely); to be also Priest in Charge of Newton (same diocese).

The Rev Dr Ronald Saunders, Chaplain, Morden College, Blackheath, London (Southwark); to be Master of Wyggeston's Hospital, Leicester (Leicester).

The Rev William Scott, Vicar, St Mary's Bourne Street (London); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Pinlincote, St Barnabas (same diocese).

The Rev David Shepherd, Vicar, Leasowe (Cheshire); to be Vicar, Oxhey St Matthew (St Albans).

The Rev Gillian South, Curate, Morpeth (Newcastle); to be Vicar, Ambleside (same diocese).

Forthcoming
marriages

Mr J.M. Banks and Miss S.J. Bryan and engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of the Revd Canon and Mrs M.T.H. Banks, of Leicester, and Sophie, daughter of Captain and Mrs Peter Bryan, of Walberton, West Sussex.

Dr A.C.W. Denman and Miss E.F. Wooler The engagement is announced between Alexander, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Alan Duncan, of Beckenham, Kent, and Eleanor, elder daughter of Mr David Wooler and of Bingley, Yorkshire.

Mr I. Snell and Miss S. Elderkin The engagement is announced between Ivan, elder son of Mr and Mrs Francis Snell, of Hayling Island, and Sue, daughter of the late Mr Ian Elderkin and of Mrs Pam Elderkin, of Kings Langley.

Mr A.J. Strong and Miss L.M. de Courcy-Ireland The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.A. Strong, of Steyning, West Sussex, and Louise, daughter of Captain and Mrs H.G. de Courcy-Ireland, of Eastleach, Gloucestershire.

Marriage

Judge P.N.R. Clark and Judge J. Davies The marriage took place on September 5, between Paul Clark and Jackie Davies, at Kirkby Overblow, North Yorkshire.

Latest wills

Eric Moss of Wimbledon, London, left estate valued at £2,344,994 net.

Anne Arbeid, of London NW4, left estate valued at £1,762,668 net. She left £5,000 to Hammerton House for the elderly, Bishop Avenue, London NW10, and £1,000 to Jewish Blind and Physically Handicapped Society, Nightingale House for Aged Jews, MIND, British Care for Disadvantaged People, Leo Baeck College, Jewish Philanthropic Association for Israel and the Middle East and the Anglo-Jewish Association.

Douglas Critchley, of London SW19, left estate valued at £1,724,326 net. He left shares in his residuary estate to such charity or charities as decided by his executors.

James Clementine Dickenson of Bath, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,095,580 net.

Among her bequests she left £2,000 to the Friends of the Royal Albert Hall, Sidmouth, and to St John's Roman Catholic Church, South Parade, Bath. She left £15,000 to St Martin's Church, Bath, NW8, and £15,000 to the National Society for Cancer Relief and Age Concern.

Anthony Philip Hopkins, of London NW8, left estate value at £1,088,436 net.

David Kester-Dodgson, of Faversham, Kent, left estate valued at £1,077,385 net.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Yest me, Lord, and thy me, and thy love, and thy love to me, and thy love to before my eyes and I live for thy fullness. Psalms 24: 2, 3

BIRTHS

Miss — On August 29th in Ipswich (Mrs Vassou) and Richard, a daughter, Sophie Rebecca.

GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARIES

GAIN-NEYCOCK On September 1st, 1967, at St David's Church, Hendy, Carmarthen, Mr and Mrs David Miller (Ken) to Margaret Anne. Present: Lt. Col. & Mrs D.M. Cole, 26th West Lancashire, Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset.

CARTWRIGHT-THOMAS On 4th September, 1947, at St Mary's, Buntingford, Bedfordshire, Mr and Mrs Christopher Cartwright to Mrs Margaret Bray. Present: address 5 Old Vicarage Close, Icknield, Herts.

DEATHS

WHENLEY — Nick, beloved husband of Debbie and father of Ben, Leah, and Sophie, much loved by family and many friends, suddenly and peacefully, at his home in Buntingford, Bedfordshire, on 1st September 1997, aged 78 years. Memorial Service at Buntingford Crematorium on 4th September 1997, 10.30am.

MCGRATH — Steven James, aged 21, of Buntingford, Bedfordshire, died suddenly at his home in Buntingford, Bedfordshire, on 1st September 1997, aged 21 years. Memorial Service at Buntingford Crematorium on 4th September 1997, 10.30am.

WILSON — Florence (Mickey) of North Wootton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, formerly of Buntingford, Bedfordshire, died on 4th September 1997, aged 80. Dear husband and son of Charles and Mary (née Wilson) much loved grandmother, Funeral at St Peter's Church, North Wootton, on 8th September 1997, 11.30am. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to the Wootton Foodbank, Buntingford, Bedfordshire.

FRASER — On 5th September at 10.30am, at Buntingford Crematorium, Bedfordshire, Mr and Mrs (née Wilson) John and Elizabeth Fraser, of Buntingford, Bedfordshire, aged 76 years. Memorial Service at Buntingford Crematorium on 10th September 1997, 10.30am.

WILSON — Dennis (Dad) died on 2nd September, 1997, aged 76. Son of Mr and Mrs John and Elizabeth Wilson, of Buntingford, Bedfordshire, aged 76 years. Memorial

OBITUARIES

PAUL RUDOLPH



Rudolph in front of the Art and Architecture Building he designed at Yale

Paul Rudolph, American architect, died on August 8 aged 78. He was born on October 10, 1918.

PAUL RUDOLPH belonged to a group of East Coast architects who emerged from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard in the mid-1940s, when it was under the direction of Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus in Germany. Like his fellow students — the most important of whom were I. M. Pei, Philip Johnson and Edward Barnes — Rudolph was a modern architect in the functional tradition, a formalist who sought a strong structural framework to contain dramatic internal spaces.

There were no frills to his architecture, nothing fussy; he wanted buildings that derived their character from the big scale of his country, and which were pure pleasure to use. Detail was reduced to a minimum, concrete and glass were favourite materials, contrasts in solids and voids were vigorously exploited. So striking was his work that for a time after he began practising as an architect he was hailed as a future leader of the Modern movement.

Paul Marvin Rudolph was born in Elkhorn, Kentucky, the son of a Methodist minister. After a sketchy education, travelling from place to place with his father, he studied architecture for six years,

starting at Athens College, Alabama, in 1934, before going on to the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. From there, in 1940, he did a year of professional practice in an architectural firm in Birmingham, Alabama, and then entered the Harvard School of Design in 1941. His education was interrupted by the war and three years in the Navy, so he did not finally graduate until 1947.

He went immediately into partnership with Ralph Twitchell, whose practice was in Sarasota, Florida. Five years later, however, Rudolph opened his own office there, and soon had so many commissions — for houses, Riverview High School in Sarasota, the Jewett Arts Center in Wellesley, Massachusetts — that there were branches of his practice right down the East Coast.

His gifts for innovation were displayed at the outset in his Florida buildings, especially in the structural sphere. So rapidly did he make a name for himself that he became, in 1958, chairman of Yale University's department of architecture, remaining there until 1965. Although he was an excellent teacher, he later told a friend that the job was "eight completely wasted years".

His reputation had peaked. He was sought after by the media and by publishers, and wrote innumerable articles. On becoming chairman, he

was commissioned to design Yale's new Art and Architecture Building, a magnificent work that was finished in 1964 and which established him beyond doubt as an architect of great distinction. This led to a second important project for the university. But this, the married students' dormitory, brought Rudolph up against problems of urban planning for the first time; in the event, he produced a miniature idea for a town, a fascinating that a further wave of commissions followed.

It was, however, a bad time to be the architect of the moment. With the swing against modern architecture — beginning, perhaps, amid the hippy radicalism of the Sixties and culminating in the ascendancy of the Post-Modernists led by Peter Eisenman and Michael Graves — his reputation suffered a downturn. A massive, multipurpose, 60-storey structure which he had been invited to design, overlooking the Hudson on Manhattan's West Side came to nothing, as did several other important projects he was offered. Although he continued to do a good deal of work in America and, more particularly, in the Far East, he appeared to have fallen from favour, and his name went into eclipse. His Arts Building at Yale was gutted by fire in 1969.

He was unmarried. His reputation had peaked. He was sought after by the media and by publishers, and wrote innumerable articles. On becoming chairman, he

JENNY JEGER

Jenny Jeger, political lobbyist, died from cancer on August 29 aged 45. She was born on January 19, 1952.

JENNY JEGER helped to pioneer a new form of political lobbying as a founder of the lobbyists' firm GJW. A loyal Labour Party supporter all her life, she had been an aide to James Callaghan; GJW's other two founders were Wilf Weeks, an aide to Ted Heath, and Andrew Gifford, an aide to Michael Portillo at Southgate in 1997.

Realising, however, that Winchester was always likely to return to its Tory loyalties, Jeger wisely left for the Labour haven of Goole in 1980.

He had been Mayor of Goole and his wife had been an active Fabian. His brother, Dr Santo Jeger, was MP for Holborn and St Pancras South until he died in 1983, when his widow, Lena Jeger, won the subsequent by-election. Jenny Jeger's death means that Lady Jeger becomes the last of this famous Labour dynasty.

Jenny Jeger was educated at the Lycee Francaise and Putney High School. She did not go to Cambridge, but, loyal to her father's old constituency, read politics at Hull. She was at home in the worlds of both politics and business. Her father, who left school at 12, became a rich man and she inherited his

business instincts. After working in No 10 during James Callaghan's three years there she proselytised for Labour in the City. She was a founder member of the £1,000 Club, established to raise money for her party, and she helped to found its Industry Forum.

When John Smith was Shadow Chancellor, she worked prominently in his campaign to persuade financial leaders that a new Labour government would not be intransigent hostile to business interests.

She led a very active social life. She loved opera, theatre and the cinema. Her friends were many — enough to justify hiring Brighton Pavilion for her 40th birthday party.

After she ceased to be an active member of GJW — she remained a consultant when the organisation was sold — she was ceaseless campaigner for various charities. She was of particular value to the Carers' National Association, to which latterly she devoted all her political and financial skills.

She was also prominent in the Alzheimer's Disease Society and the Contact a Family Organisation. She never married, but is survived by her partner for many years, David Bean.

LESLIE FREWIN

Leslie Frewin, publicist and publisher, died on August 27 aged 80. He was born on August 8, 1917.

LESLIE FREWIN always had stars in his eyes, and his life as film publicist, writer and publisher ensured that he was always at the centre of the glamour he enjoyed. His heroes and heroines ranged from jazz greats to film stars and cricketers, and he himself became a kind of hero through his work for charities such as the Lord's Taverners and the Samaritans.

At the age of 19 he ran his own jazz clubs, while writing reviews for *New Musical Express* and *Le Hot Jazz*. Then, after his army service, he wrote *Battledress Ballads*, the

bouncing bomb. Frewin's knack for friendship was to endear him to such diverse personalities as John Huston, Judy Garland and Noel Coward. David Niven called him "Frew Frew".

In due course, he became head of publicity for Euston Studios, which were part of the Associated British Picture Corporation. In the course of his work there he had a miniskirt designed for Diana Dors to wear at the Cannes Film Festival. The photographers clicked and the moralists clucked — which was the point of this mildly surreal exercise.

Besides the game of people-promotion, he was devoted to the sometimes more serious sport of cricket, about which he wrote several books. He

was for three years chairman of the original Lord's Taverners, and through these books he raised thousands of pounds for underprivileged children. One of his proudest boasts was that he had bowled Denis Compton, though Compton said it was only because both had drunk too much beer — "and I could no more see the ball than Leslie could see the wicket".

Alfred Hitchcock introduced him to Marlene Dietrich, about whom Frewin wrote *Blonde Venus*, a book which was reprinted many times. She was typical of the stars he adored. Rather more unaccountably, he saw himself as a star too. When he began his own publishing company, he had his photograph printed all over the front of the

JEFFREY BERNARD



Littlewood at Stratford East, he regarded Soho as his university, and it was to become his principal source of material. He was introduced to journalism by the Canadian writer and poet Elizabeth Smart, who presented him to the editor of the 1960s magazine *Queen*. Originally he wrote about racing from a fresh, witty and iconoclastic point of view. He went on to contribute idiosyncratic turf notes to *Private Eye* and to be a staff member of *The Sporting Life*. He was sacked from that paper when he arrived drunk and incapable of making the after-dinner speech which had been arranged at its instigation. He attributed his collapse to nerves.

Soho and its rich cast — poets, painters, prostitutes, bookies, runners, bohemians, bums, philosophers, crooks, cranks, Dylan Thomas, Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud, John Minton, Frank Norman, No Nickers Joyce, Sid the Swimmer, Iron Foot Jack, Nina Hamnett, Muriel Belcher — provided him with his cast. His most famous haunt was the bar of the Coach and Horses, where Norman Balon — "the rudest landlord in London" — became one of his regular targets. His attendance

published under the title *High Life, Low Life*.

Bernard also produced several compilations of his own. He was said to have been commissioned more than once to write an autobiography, but none appeared. Graham Lord published a biography, *Just The One*, in 1992.

Bernard had three brushes with the law, most notably in 1986, when in a *Spectator* article he drew gleeful attention to an illegal book he was running for friends at the Coach and Horses. The police moved in and he was fined £250.

His apothecary came in 1989, in the form of an entertainment derived by Keith Waterhouse from his life and writings. *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell* — a title based on the apology printed in *The Spectator* whenever his copy failed to arrive — found an ideal interpreter in Peter O'Toole, whose towering comic performance was a revelation. O'Toole himself had not been a stranger to excess, and he had shared some women and many experiences with his subject.

Tom Conti, James Bolam and Dennis Waterman all subsequently played the role. Bernard's delight in this triumph was not unimpaired as the trio's joint work was

views and closed in. Then the lease on his Covent Garden flat, in easy walking distance of the Coach and Horses, expired. He moved to Maida Vale, and his dispatches began to suggest a quieter lifestyle. Six weeks before a successful revival of the play, the *Sunday Mirror* published Bernard's enthusiastic account of a performance he claimed to have witnessed. Only afterwards was it pointed out that he had recorded a drunken dream.

His dependence on hospital was now constant. The body that he had ravaged over the years, and the diabetes which plagued and wasted him to his final skeletal appearance, took their toll.

One leg was amputated, and the other was threatened. His *Spectator* column began to be filled with his battles with doctors, nurses and visitors, and with the home-helps who looked after him in the new high-rise flat he had moved to in Soho, in which he was forced to spend most of his time. He could now make sorties to his old watering holes only when someone offered to push his wheelchair. The devotion of his most regular help, Vera, was warmly and amusingly reported.

In 1996 he published a third collection of essays, *Reach for the Ground: The Downhill Struggle*, and featured in a Channel 4 documentary about his predicament, intercut with scenes from an amateur production of the play.

He now made efforts to curb his drinking and to belie the suggestion that his column was "a suicide note in weekly instalments". He also placed an advertisement in the personal columns of *The Spectator*: "Alcoholic diabetic amputee seeks sympathy home".

In July 1996 an American magazine commissioned Bernard to write a travel piece about Marrakesh, and he flew out with a nurse. After he fell ill on arrival, they left for home. He was taken off the plane at Casablanca and placed in intensive care.

In the year of his greatest celebrity, it was Bernard's habit to drop into the bar of the Apollo Theatre for a couple of large vodkas with soda during the run of play. Finding him asleep over his drink one night, a relief house manager ordered his expulsion. "You can't do that," said the barmaid, "That's Jeffrey Bernard." "Nonsense," replied the manager. "Jeffrey Bernard's a character up on the stage."

He is survived by a daughter from his third marriage.

MILESTONES



Diana, Princess of Wales died on August 31 aged 36. She was born on July 1, 1961.

After a rather isolated childhood, Lady Diana Spencer met the Prince of Wales in 1977. They were married on July 29, 1981, in St Paul's Cathedral, amid unprecedented press interest, which was not to abate for the rest of her life. The shy 20-year-old soon learnt the tricks of the royal trade and she began to outshine her husband. She became patron of many charities, and was notable for her warm concern for individuals, particularly the disadvantaged and the sick. Her sons Prince William and Prince Harry were born in 1982 and 1984.

She was also prominent in the Alzheimer's Disease Society and the Contact a Family Organisation. She never married, but is survived by her partner for many years, David Bean.

Fayed, was more playboy than entrepreneur, although as a multimillionaire he dabbled in film production. He was known mainly for dating famous and beautiful women, including Brooke Shields, Britt Ekland, Marie Helvin, Koo Stark and Princess Stephanie of Monaco. This summer he began an association with a figure more glamorous than any of them: Diana, Princess of Wales, and took her on a succession of Mediterranean holidays. He was accused by an American model, Kelly Fisher, of breaking an engagement, but the romance with the Princess had become a newspaper obsession. It was while trying to escape the paparazzi, being driven at great speed through the Paris night, that they met their deaths.

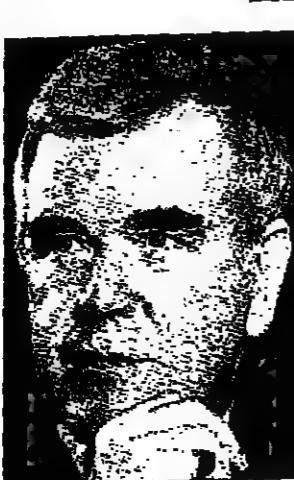
Obituary published on September 4.

Sir Rudolf Bing, KBE, former General Manager of New York's Metropolitan Opera, died in New York on September 2 aged 95. He was born in Vienna on January 9, 1902.

Bing's early life was much influenced by Carl Ebert, who gave him a job in 1928 at the opera in Darmstadt, and, as the Nazi era dawned, brought him to Glyndebourne. During the war Bing worked in Peter Jones in Sloane Square. He claimed that soothsayers under the hairdryer gave him much

At one stage in his career, Jim Kelland had operational control of every territorial detective in London. He was responsible for major procedural improvements at New Scotland Yard in the 1970s. His personal virtues and spotless integrity enabled him not only to bring to justice many repellent criminals, but to reform some of the most potentially compromising of police operations, and to investigate and prosecute corruption when he found it within the service.

Obituary published on September 5.



first of his 32 books, and went to Cainsborough Film Studios as a trainee. There he met the lifelong friend, the actor James Mason, as well as Barnes Wallis who had conceived the

catalogue. That was part of an extravagant style which included gorgeous shirts, an MCC tie and a kindly flamboyance of manner.

He was always aware, though, that there were others who did not have his uplift of spirit, and for a time he was chairman of the Samaritans, which he said he found both

rewarding and humbling.

His publishing venture was as ebullient as his personality, and included *The Wit of Peter Ustinov* (about whom he had joined the Royal Fusiliers) and coffee-table books about the Royal Family. They epitomised his star-struck approach.

Leslie Frewin is survived by his wife, Susan, whom he married in 1979, his two sons and his stepdaughter.

Dodi Fayed, a director of Harrods, died on August 31 aged 42. He was born on April 15, 1955.

Dodi Fayed, son of the businessman Mohamed Al



Obituary published on September 5.



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Call for emergency government

Guerrillas kill 12 in bungled Israeli attack

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday faced urgent calls for the formation of a national emergency government after suffering a military blow in Lebanon when 12 of its servicemen were killed only hours after Islamic suicide bombers killed four people in Jerusalem and wounded nearly 200.

Most of those killed in Lebanon were members of an elite marine commando unit dispatched on a secret mission presumed to involve the assassination or kidnapping of a senior Muslim militant. The death toll was the worst suffered by Israel since the end of the Lebanon war launched in 1982.

Eli Goldschmidt, a Labour Knesset member, was the first to demand a political realignment bringing together the Labour Opposition and the right-wing Government of Binyamin Netanyahu, who attempted to dispel the mood of national shock by vowing to defeat "terrorists", whom he said were attacking Israel on two fronts. He will face a special session of the Knesset next Tuesday to debate the crisis.

After an emergency session of the security Cabinet, Israel

announced yesterday that in the wake of the triple Jerusalem suicide bombing, it will "act against the terrorist organisations and their infrastructure to ensure the security of its citizens and their right to self-defence".

No details were given of what specific action is planned, but Israeli security sources said that the military strikes were expected inside areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority, where wanted Islamic terrorists were

deemed still to be at large. The four-point communiqué from the emergency session also confirmed that Israel would not be carrying out the second scheduled withdrawal of its troops from further areas of the West Bank, as demanded by the Palestinians for September 7.

Israel cannot continue on a path which would grant the Palestinian Authority additional territory while the PA fails to fulfil all its obligations, primarily its commitment to fight terrorism in the territories

under its control," the communiqué said.

Political commentators said that the hard-line response adopted by the Government would further increase the already severe diplomatic problems facing Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, when she begins her crucial first peace mission to the Middle East next week.

News of the Lebanon debacle came as Israeli radio stations were solemnly reading lists of names of funerals of Thursday's triple suicide attack. Inevitably the two tragedies became intertwined, increasing public calls for revenge against the Arabs in both the occupied territories and in Lebanon.

The deepening crisis was underlined by an Israeli Army announcement that one of its soldiers was missing, presumed dead in the Lebanon firefight which raged for over three hours. The Israeli Government said that it held the Lebanese Government responsible for the body's safe return. A Hezbollah spokesman in Lebanon said they were not holding any Israelis.

Added urgency has been given to next week's peace

making mission by Ms Albright. In the current climate her task has been described by one Israeli commentator as "mission nearly impossible".

The gravity of the situation was underlined by separate statements issued by Mr Netanyahu — who spent much of the day closed with his security Cabinet — and Ehud Barak, the Labour leader, who urged the country to

"unite behind the Israeli Defence Force and its fighters".

As the public thirst for revenge grew, Jerusalem's police chief yesterday issued a stern warning to Jewish extremists not to take the law into their own hands. He said that a number of incidents had occurred and two Jewish militants had been arrested.

Mr Netanyahu, facing the biggest security crisis of his career, said that yesterday was a day of profound agony and of multiple grief for the Israeli people". He hinted strongly at Israeli retaliation, but did not spell out what form this would take.

"The state of Israel is confronted on two fronts with a bitter and difficult struggle with lowly terrorists whose intention is to destroy the state of Israel and murder its citizens," he said. "I say clearly: these murderers will not annihilate Israel."

Israeli security sources predicted that a wide range of measures could be taken, including raids into Palestinian-controlled areas and more intensive air strikes in Lebanon, including hits at terrorist strongholds in the capital Beirut. The Lebanese Government, fearing the worst, appealed for French diplomatic intervention to prevent further escalation.

Lebanese sources said that a woman and a young girl were also killed in the fierce clashes at Insariyah in which six Lebanese civilians were wounded.

South Lebanon is the last active Arab-Israeli war front and was one of the subjects which Ms Albright, who will visit for the first time since being appointed seven months ago, was expected to deal with during her now vital peace mission.



Boat Race crews hot up rivalry on the Amazon

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE young blades of Oxford and Cambridge are to resume their historic rivalry in piranha-infested waters later this month when they restage the Boat Race on the Amazon.

The two crews, including many who last crossed ours on the Thames in March, leave for Brazil next week to acclimatise to the tropical Amazonas region, where temperatures exceed 30C (86F). Various hazards await the eight on the world's largest river, including crocodiles, leeches, malaria and sudden rapids. They have been reassured that the piranhas and crocodiles usually avoid fast-flowing water.

Cambridge has already contacted the authorities to find out the best "station", or side of the river, to row on. In the annual Boat Race, the choice between Surrey and Middlesex stations can be crucial depending on conditions.

However, on a river five miles wide in places, they were told the lane chosen did not make too much difference, even with the additional competition from a Brazilian crew.

the spirit of the month with an exhibition of British rowers.

One of Oxford's Amazon crew, Paul Berger, 24, who rowed in the 1996 Boat Race, said: "We have not really been told too much about conditions. I know there will be a lot of safety launches with us. But when you hear we are going through over 10,000m of jungle, it makes you wonder how far into the depths of the Amazon you are."

Simon Hart, third secretary (chancery) at the British Embassy in Brasilia, said: "The start and finish will be very public events and I think that, in between, there may well be a gentleman's agreement about how they stage it, because they cannot go hell for leather for the whole 12km."

He said the race, scheduled for September 21, was the brain child of Britain's Ambassador to Brazil, Keith Haskell.

It has been funded by the Amazonas authorities as part of a "British month" preceding the state visit to Britain in December of President Cardoso of Brazil. The *Cultura Inglesa* in Manaus is joining

the spirit of the month with an exhibition of British rowers.

The author of *The Spectator's Low Life* column succumbed late on Thursday to one of the illnesses for which he was renowned. His death came days after he refused further kidney dialysis. Frank Johnson, Editor of *The Spectator*, said the Soho habitué was irreplaceable. "There will be no more Low Life."

Obituary, page 23

Jeffrey Bernard is dead after refusing dialysis

JEFFREY BERNARD, the journalist and bon viveur who wrote of his colourful life in seedy Soho bars, has died aged 65, it was announced yesterday (Peter Foster writes).

The author of *The Spectator's Low Life* column succumbed late on Thursday to one of the illnesses for which he was renowned. His death came days after he refused further kidney dialysis. Frank Johnson, Editor of *The Spectator*, said the Soho habitué was irreplaceable. "There will be no more Low Life."

Obituary, page 23

US scientists modify cow virus to kill cells infected with HIV

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN scientists have set a thief to catch a thief by using a modified virus that usually infects cows to kill cells infected with the Aids virus. They have shown that it works in test tubes, but have yet to begin animal trials. Aids experts are nevertheless enthusiastic about the new treatment's potential, so long as it is shown to be safe.

Dr John Rose, a Yale University virologist, and colleagues report in *Cell* that they used a modified version of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), which causes a mouth infection in cattle. They altered it so that it homed in on HIV-infected cells, quickly killing them.

The modifications to VSV were based on discoveries about how HIV infects cells made at the University of Pennsylvania by Dr Robert Doms. He found that the virus first binds to a receptor called CD4 on the surface of white blood cells and then to a second surface receptor, the chemokine receptor.

Only after this "double handshake" does HIV enter the cells. Then pieces of the virus make their way to the surface of the infected cell and stick out, like a flag of victory.

Dr Rose suspected that, if his team

gave VSV the genes responsible for making the two receptors, the virus would home in on cells with the tiny HIV flags sticking out of them. The flags would then bind to the receptors, enabling the VSV to kill the infected cells, leaving the rest untouched.

In cultures, that in fact is what happens. "VSV is so fast," Dr Rose told *Science Now*, the Internet science news service.

And because he has disabled VSV by removing its own surface proteins, he hopes that it will not be able to infect other cells. "Without its normal coat, it can't infect anything," Dr Rose maintained.

Animal tests will be needed to prove that this is indeed so. Dr Anthony Fauci, an Aids expert at the United States National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, gives a warning that it might take impractically high doses of VSV to make a serious impact on HIV levels in human patients.

The same technique might be used to treat diseases other than Aids, by exchanging different receptors into VSV. "The potential applications are enormous" said Dr Nava Shner, who is in charge of novel Aids treatments at the institute.



Olympic bomb suspect arrested

AS THE International Olympic Committee considered its choice of the city to host the 2004 Games, a Swedish man was arrested with explosives. Stockholm police said he may have been responsible for two previous explosions at sports stadiums, for which a little-known group calling itself "We Who Built Sweden" claimed responsibility. Stockholm is competing against Rome, Athens, Buenos Aires and Cape Town, and yesterday President Mandela was in Lusaka to promote South Africa's bid.

Rob Hughes, page 48

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received a series of death threats.

Mourning Israelis thirst for revenge

Netanyahu is being urged to attack
Palestinian areas after the suicide
blasts. Christopher Walker writes

ISRAELIS yesterday mingled defiance with demands for revenge attacks against the 2.2 million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank after the suicide attack which killed seven people, including the three bombers.

Workmen laboured to return the Ben Yehuda shopping mall to normal yesterday. On the wall of the Atara Café, which reopened for business at 8am, was a photograph of the bombing of the street in 1948, before the creation of the Jewish state. Ben Yehuda has seen 12 other terrorist attacks, including one in 1975 when a fridge packed with explosives blew up, killing 15 people.

"We are not going to be put off by these people," said Meir Levisohn, a tour guide, whose waitress wife Judy was wounded in the attack. "This is our state and we intend to go on living here. Maybe on the way we will have to swallow a few more of these frogs sticking in our throats."

Mr Levisohn's parents run a souvenir shop on Ben Yehuda at the time of the 1948 blast, which was blamed on Britons seeking revenge after Jewish terrorist atrocities against British soldiers. "Life will go on for us as it did for them," Mr Levisohn said. "We are not going to be put off that easily."

Sipping espresso in the café only feet from the spot where one of the three Islamic terrorists blew himself up, Yishai Goldfield, a soft-spoken survivor of the Holocaust, said he had come back to his favourite haunt to express his defiance. "I thought it was right to come

here and identify with the employees of the café after they worked through the night to reopen it," he said. Near by, city workers shovelled the last piles of broken glass and twisted metal into skips.

Four Israelis, including three schoolgirls, were killed in the bombing. Classmates of two of the 14-year-old girls who died lit memorial candles and erected a shrine.

Mr Goldfield was one of many who urged Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, to sanction tough military action against Palestinian areas.

One Cabinet minister, Ariel Sharon, a former Defence Minister and architect of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, claimed in a newspaper article that Israel was rapidly turning into "another Algeria".

Mr Goldfield said: "I am not a wild person, but today I have a wild rage."

Israeli outrage was fuelled by frustration that no obvious remedy was available. Many were reading papers filled with photographs of the carnage and predictions that Israeli military action was likely in areas controlled by Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority.

Only five weeks ago, a suicide attack in Jerusalem's main Mahane Yehuda market less than half a mile away claimed 15 Israeli lives. Yesterday Kochava Akball, her face flushed with rage, shouted at those around her: "How long is Jewish blood going to be cheap? How long are our leaders going to talk and talk and visit families of our dead? They are interested in keeping



The mother of 20-year-old Rami Koshashvili, one of the suicide bomb victims, grieves over his covered body at their home in Jerusalem before his funeral yesterday

their chairs instead of protecting our cities."

But Ahron, a security expert working near the scene of the bombing, said that any attempt to retake the Palestinian cities handed over to Mr Arafat since 1994 could cost hundreds of Israeli lives. His

quiet logic was not matched by most of the crowd baying for reprisals. "We need to enter [Palestinian-ruled] Ramallah and Nablus and set off bombs," shouted Shalom Kalina. "Blow up their buses."

another man added. "What will that help? What will that do?" asked Eran Kadmon. "They will just send in more bombers from Gaza."

Mr Kalina responded sharply: "It will make them feel real outrage. Why should we be afraid on our streets? They need to fear us."

Throughout the day, Ben

Yehuda and other central Jerusalem streets resembled an armed camp with large squads of soldiers and border police questioning the few Arabs who had ventured across from east Jerusalem to work. Despite the scores of security men and the bomb

disposal vehicles on hand, people on the street eyed one another with suspicion and every unfamiliar face was subjected to a prolonged gaze.

Approach roads to Jerusalem were virtually deserted and the city's shopkeepers expressed pessimism that tourists could be tempted back in any numbers.

"Every time one of these horrors get on the world's television screens, it convinces more and more people that this is a dangerous place to visit," said the owner of one jeweller's shop.

Hezbollah guerrillas brandish gruesome trophies of battle in south Lebanon



AS DAWN broke, the streets of Insaryeh were packed with dazed and anxious people. The 4,000 inhabitants of this dusty hilltop village, one mile from the Lebanese coast, had been jolted out of their sleep early yesterday when a fierce battle erupted between an Israeli sea-borne commando unit and Hezbollah and Amal guerrillas.

"We never thought something like this would happen here," said Tayser Rmeil, 26. "We have not been attacked for years, not even

during the April war," he added, referring to Israel's 16-day blitz on south Lebanon last year.

Lebanese Army lorries equipped with heavy machineguns and Red

Cross ambulances raced through the village on their way to the battlefield a half a mile away. Villagers kept a wary eye on a lone Israeli warship a few miles offshore. Hours earlier,

the village had been shelled by the warship as helicopters tried to evacuate the Israeli casualties. One civilian was killed, and another wounded when they accidentally drove into the battle.

As details of the Israeli casualties emerged, the villagers began to rejoice. "Two civilian casualties are worth the price for twelve dead Israelis," Mr Rmeil said.

The scene of the fighting was

wreathed in smoke from burning pine trees set alight by the intense

gunfire. Lebanese soldiers doused the flames, while weary guerrillas clutching automatic weapons cordoned off the area.

One Amal guerrilla displayed scraps of Israeli uniform, while another produced an Israeli army boot. "The Israelis were trying to plant bombs here, but we shredded them," a guerrilla said.

The remains of an Israeli soldier who was blown to pieces in the fighting were collected by the guerrillas and, later displayed at a

Hezbollah press conference in Beirut. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's secretary-general, proclaimed the battle as a great victory. "This was the first Israeli commando operation in the history of Zionism which completely failed in its objective."

Referring to the gruesome exhibits, which included a foot and part of a head, Sheikh Nasrallah said that they would be returned to the Israelis in exchange for imprisoned Lebanese guerrillas.

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Western governments were plunged into despair by the suicide bombings in Jerusalem, believing that there is now only a slender chance to rescue the peace process from a downward spiral of terrorism and tough counter measures.

All now depends on the

American and Madeleine Albright's mission to the

Middle East. Western officials

hope that the prospect of the

Secretary of State's visit may

persuade Israel not to take

further action in retaliation for

the bruising encounter in Leba-

non and the loss of 12

soldiers.

The most ominous develop-

ment, according to several

Western diplomats, is the

growing influence of the Arab

rebel groups and the govern-

ments in Lebanon which

</

Lebed says 100 nuclear bombs 'lost' by Russia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA yesterday denied allegations by Aleksandr Lebed, the country's former security chief, that more than 100 nuclear "suitcase" bombs were unaccounted for by the military.

In one of the most disturbing allegations yet about the security of Russia's nuclear arsenal, the former general said that he discovered the missing atomic weapons when he served as national security adviser to President Yeltsin last year.

The one-kiloton bombs, known as Special Atomic Demolition Munitions, have been described as the "perfect terrorist weapon". They weigh between 60lb and 100lb, can be concealed in a suitcase or backpack and detonated by one person within half an hour. Although originally designed for use by commandos to blow up targets behind enemy lines, such as bridges and command centres, General Lebed said that if detonated in a city they could kill up to 100,000 people.

"I do not know their whereabouts," said the Afghan war veteran, in an interview with the CBS American television network, to be broadcast tomorrow. "I do not know if they have been destroyed or whether they are stored, or sold or stolen." The weapons could now be somewhere in Georgia, Ukraine, the Baltic countries, or elsewhere.

The allegations follow similar claims that he made to a US congressional delegation in May. At that time, he said

that while serving as President Yeltsin's top security adviser last year he had discovered that the military was unable to account for 48 of the 132 portable nuclear weapons.

When he informed Mr Yeltsin there was "no reaction". He now believes that the number of missing bombs is more than 100 out of a total of 250.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, yesterday dismissed the allegations as "absolute stupidity... all Russian nuclear weapons remain under general and perfectly reliable control of the Russian armed forces". The Defence Ministry insisted that General Lebed was never involved in the issue of nuclear weapons security.

Vladimir Uvatenko, a Defence Ministry spokesman, denied General Lebed's claim. "As a representative of the Defence Ministry I declare: there are no nuclear bombs in



Lebed: making second bid for presidency



Crowds in Red Square, Moscow, watch a rehearsal with fireworks for celebrations to mark the 850th anniversary of the founding of the Russian capital. President Yeltsin was due to attend a ceremony last night to signal the official start of a weekend of festivities

Mir pair ready for spacewalk to repair module

FROM ROBIN LODGE
IN MOSCOW

MICHAEL FOALE, the British-born Nasa astronaut on board the Russian space station Mir, will step into space today to examine the exterior of the Spektr research module, which was ripped open in June in a collision with an unmanned cargo craft.

At 1.55am British time, Dr Foale and the mission commander, Anatoli Solov'ev, will open a hatch on the

station and float into space, returning some six hours later. They will remain attached to the complex by safety lines.

Dr Foale, 40, who has endured a series of crises on Mir since the start of his mission in May, including the collision, a power blackout, various system malfunctions and failures as well as the crash of a main onboard computer, received clearance from Nasa on Thursday night for the reconnaissance spacewalk. Nasa and Russian mission control officials

described the operation yesterday as straightforward and said there were few risks involved. The greatest danger is that a jagged edge could rip one of the men's suits, causing depressurisation and instant suffocation.

Dr Foale's role will be to assist Commander Solov'ev, a veteran cosmonaut who has already logged more than 40 hours in nine separate spacewalks. Last month he entered the stricken, airless Spektr module with Flight Engineer Pavel Vinogradov to

reattach cables severed after the crash and restore power to the complex. On that occasion Dr Foale played no part in the mission, but sat in the Soyuz escape craft, ready for an emergency evacuation of the station.

It is highly unusual for a non-Russian to be entrusted with safety work beyond routine maintenance. American astronauts from previous Mir missions have described the attitude taken by their Russian colleagues as "look, but don't touch".

Comoros troops 'driven back by rebels'

FROM REUTERS
IN MORONI

A COMOROS Red Crescent official said yesterday that secessionist forces had driven government troops out of the Anjouan capital, Mutsamudu, after fighting overnight left many dead and injured.

The official, who declined to be named, spoke from the nearby island of Moheli a day after the Government of President Taki claimed it had

Anjouan back under control. Government troops who invaded Anjouan on Wednesday to counter secessionist forces had retreated to the airport at Ouart, four miles east of Mutsamudu, the official added. His information was based on radio contacts with aid workers on Anjouan. The Government has cut direct telephone links and censored reports about the fighting.

The Red Crescent official said many people had died in the latest fighting sparked by government attempts on Wednesday to crush the revolt.

Scores of buildings had also been destroyed in the fighting, which prevented medical aid from reaching the wounded.

But officials maintained yesterday that the Government was still in control of Anjouan and that its forces were on the island "carrying out their duties with dignity and caution". It claimed secessionist leaders had fled Mutsamudu. A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs accused the secessionists of using women and children as shields.

Anjouan, the second largest of a three-island archipelago, opted for secession on August 3 after months of protest, civil unrest and clashes with security forces that led to several deaths. Moheli, the smallest island, followed suit.

Political leaders on Anjouan and Moheli have disagreed on whether they want full independence, a return to French rule or merely greater autonomy.

In Paris, a senior French military officer, also declining to be quoted by name,

ANC braced for new Winnie claims

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress is bracing itself for allegations that Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the leader of its women's movement and the former wife of South Africa's President, stabbed a teenage boy of whose kidnapping she was once accused, and later ordered the murder of Soweto's "people's doctor".

The claims form part of statements which have been in the possession of South African police since 1989. They have raised questions over whether the police covered up the role of Mrs Mandela to prevent derailing the peace process in the run-up to the 1994 elections.

In a later statement to South African police — made in

Britain in July 1995 — Katiza Cebekhulu, a member of "Mandela Football Club", a notorious gang formed to guard Mrs Mandela, said that he had seen her "carrying something in her hand which she lifted high and plunged down into a body that I identified as being Stompe".

This was a reference to Stompe Moeketsi Seipei, a teenage member of the Mandela Football Club, who disappeared in 1988. One of Mrs Mandela's bodyguards was later found guilty of Seipei's murder. Mr Cebekhulu was to have given evidence at her trial for kidnapping the youth, but fled to Zambia. He is presently at a "safe house" in Britain pending his return to South Africa this month.

Mr Cebekhulu is expected to tell the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Mrs Mandela also ordered the killing of Dr Abu-Baker Asvat at his Soweto clinic in January 1989. He said that the killing was ordered because Dr Asvat had refused to certify that both Seipei and Mr Cebekhulu had been "raped" by Rev Paul Verryn, who had run a shelter from which Seipei and four others were abducted by the Mandela Football Club before Seipei was beaten to death.

Mrs Mandela's involvement in the murder of Dr Asvat was allegedly corroborated by Nicholas Dlamini — who, with Zikhele Cyril

Mbatha, was convicted of the killing in 1989 — in an interview last week with the South African Mail and Guardian.

Mr Cebekhulu said in his statement that he had driven the two killers to Dr Asvat's clinic. In his interview, Dlamini confirmed this last week, and added he had been offered 20,000 rands (£2,800) by Mrs Mandela. "After asking us if we have the courage to carry out the mission, we told her that we have no problem," he told the paper.

The interview with Dlamini and Mr Cebekhulu's affidavit suggest that Dr Asvat was murdered because he had seen Seipei's condition after he was beaten and insisted that he should go to hospital.



Madikizela-Mandela: 'had doctor murdered'

Time Out's time comes

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S

NEW YORK



Village Voice fought for gay rights, women's rights, black rights, pornographers' rights. It fought for the rights of everyone except those who wished to say "postman" instead of "postperson" and "he" instead of "he or she".

Today, with the Cold War consigned to encyclopedias and with Manhattan's "correctness" set firmly in stone, the time has come for cooler, lighter fare. Enter Time Out — unpreachy, egalitarian — to capture perfectly the city's end-of-century spirit.

New York is now apolitical. Almost everyone "works out". Smoking is for social lepers.

Steaks are seldom eaten. Martinis are not drunk at lunch any more. Grunge is unacceptable. Crime is no longer

an issue. Drag Queens are boring and one in four men is openly homosexual. A Republican mayor rules the city, and rules it well. Who needs The Village Voice now?

To beat back the Time Out deluge, The Village Voice decided last year to become a free sheet. The tactic failed: it was a confession, finally, that the newspaper's commentators were stale, their writings too jejune to sell. The voice of New York's Left was now merely another "noticeboard", to be picked up from grimy street corners by New Yorkers too busy to stop.

This is Time Out time in the Big Apple, a time of breezy ready-reckoners and useful information on tap. New York's soul has changed: it is no longer fashionable to be in "resistance". The motto of The Village Voice used to be "Expect the Unexpected". New Yorkers need no motto now. They expect — and demand — the expected. And Time Out, British and pragmatic, never fails to provide it.

Dwelling on the fact that the tragic accident in Paris was the result of a clash between the camera and the car, two of the most powerful icons of our age, Mr Rushdie argues that the Princess died in a "sexual assault".

He says: "Think of it this way. The object of desire, the Beauty, the Blonde (Diana), is repeatedly subjected to the unwelcome attentions of a persistent suitor (the Camera) until the dashing, glamorous knight (riding his automobile) sweeps her away. The Camera, with its unavoidably phallic, long-lensed snout, gives pursuit. And the story reaches its tragic climax, for the Automobile is driven not by a hero but by a clumsy drunk."

Simon Schama, the historian, is another contributor to the issue. Stating that Diana was "certainly more stained against than sinning", he says gloomily: "There is a chance that, for the first time since the death of Victoria, the well-oiled machinery of the monarchy may actually stall on the phenomenon of the populist Princess."

Trump pursues presidential alliance

NEW YORK'S tom-toms are beating out a ripe new rumour. According to reports, Donald Trump, the less-than-venerable property tycoon is planning to wed a Venezuelan beauty queen.

The *bella latina*, however, is no ordinary temptress. She is said to be Irene Saez Conde, a 6ft former Miss Universe (1981) who is now the Mayoresa of Chacala, a district of Caracas.

But there is a twist. Señorita Saez is planning to run for her country's presidency, no less, in next year's elections. An alliance between her and



Irene Saez Conde and her suitor, Donald Trump

Rushdie's close-up on tragic object of desire

SALMAN RUSHDIE, who married secretly last week, has taken time off from his post-nuptial "honeymoon", surely, is an inappropriate word for him to write a brisk and clever piece for the latest issue of The New Yorker, an unprecedented mid-week "special issue" produced to commemorate Diana, Princess of Wales.

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Mugabe must share spoils

Harare: Legislation giving the ruling Zanu (PF) party of President Mugabe, right, sole access to substantial sums of state money meant to subsidise political pluralism has been abolished by the country's Supreme Court, which declared that the law violated voters' rights (Jan Raath writes). Since 1992, Zanu (PF) has received £310 million (£9.5 million) while opposition parties were barred because they secured less than the minimum 15 seats in parliament laid down by the law.

Family returns 'black box'

Phnom Penh: A flight recorder believed to have been stolen by villagers from a crashed Vietnam Airlines plane has been returned following appeals on radio and television. A government spokesman said a peasant family handed in the "black box", which may help to explain the cause of the crash on Wednesday which killed at least 65 people. The instrument was apparently "blown away" by the force of the exploding Tupolev 134. The family received a \$200 (£125) reward. (AP)

Train kills bridge walkers

Dhaka: At least three people were killed and 50 others were missing after an inter-city train crossed a bridge on which they were walking in northeastern Bangladesh. The death toll could rise as scores of people jumped off the bridge over the Khowai River to avoid the train. "Many people jumped into the river to save themselves from being hit and may have been washed downstream by the turbulent water," a local resident said. (AFP)

Flak jackets compulsory

Colombia has equipped its 102 senators with bulletproof vests, which they will be obliged to wear at all times when outside their homes (Gabriella Gamin writes). The Bogotá Government announced that life insurance would be cancelled if they failed to wear the jackets. The measure comes after top politicians received a series of death threats.

Senior judge finds prosecution system 'is not working properly'

Frances Gibb on Sir Iain Glidewell's review of the CPS



Sir Iain: "things can, go wrong sometimes"

THE senior judge appointed by the Government to conduct a review of the Crown Prosecution Service has admitted that the system is not working.

Sir Iain Glidewell, the retired Court of Appeal judge, said he had received comments and submissions from hundreds of employees in the Crown Prosecution Service, from typists to senior lawyers.

"There is no doubt that the present system is not working as it should," he said. "I don't mean that to indicate that it's specifically the fault of the CPS; it is the overall functioning of the whole system, from investigation to conviction or acquittal, which has things that can go wrong and sometimes do."

The inquiry was one of the first to be announced by Tony Blair. Sir Iain, who is assisted by Sir Geoffrey Dear, the former Inspector of Constabulary, has a wide-ranging remit, from the organisation of the service to its policies and procedures.

There was specific concern among ministers about failing convictions, and he is required to look at whether the CPS "has contributed to the failing number of convictions for recorded crime". He also has to examine the validity of criticisms that the CPS has led to unjustified "downgradings" of charges.

Dame Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has rebutted criticisms

over failing convictions, pointing out that the CPS can prosecute only those cases that are put before it. Sir Iain would not be drawn on failing convictions, except to say that the current statistics relating to crime were all collated in different ways and his review would seek to "co-ordinate" these.

The statistics from one department are by no means consistent with those from another and this is one factor — although I should be surprised if it were the only one — in the conflicting views over convictions.

Sir Iain, who began work in June and is expecting to publish his report early next year, said it was too early to say

what his final findings or recommendations would be. But the single biggest need identified so far was for "greater co-ordination" between the various agencies.

He had also been struck by the degree of loyalty among staff for the service, which was created in 1986. "By no means

all the comments are wholly critical. They do very often reflect the enthusiasm which members of staff have for the concept of the service."

John Morris, the Attorney-General and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, have already proceeded with one reform of the service — its reorganisation into smaller units in line with police force areas, but that does not take effect

until April next year. Sir Iain said: "That inevitably means we are having to go about asking people how they intend to do things under this change and we will comment accordingly." He is likely to give an early view on this in advance of the main report.

He and his small support staff have interviewed a wide range of people and bodies who work with the service. The next stage is now to go out to four specific areas — south-east London, the West Midlands, south Yorkshire and Humberside and South Wales — and "see how it operates on the ground". But he said it was unlikely that they would come up with any ideas that were totally new.

ADRIAN SHERATT

Oxford student jailed for drug offences

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN OXFORD University student has been jailed for two years for dealing in drugs. Benjamin O'Brien, 19, was told by Judge Harold Wilson that those who enjoyed the advantages and privileges of university life had to learn to exercise responsibility as well.

Sentencing O'Brien at Oxford Crown Court, Judge Wilson said: "There is a very serious drug problem in this city and you are part of that problem. Despite all the publicity about drugs, and the deaths involved, particularly with Ecstasy, you ignored all those warnings."

"You supplied friends with drugs and threatened them with death. It is not melodrama, it is happening every day."

Judge Wilson continued: "You were equipped with advantages denied others but advantages and privileges bring responsibilities too. The message must clearly go out that those who peddle drugs in this city and are caught will lose their liberty."

O'Brien, from Halifax, was a politics, philosophy and economics student at Somerville College. He had finished in the top three in his first-year exams.

He admitted six charges of possessing and supplying Ecstasy, supplying cannabis and possession of cocaine and amphetamines. Police had raided his college room in June and found 42 Ecstasy tablets hidden behind a poster and other drugs.

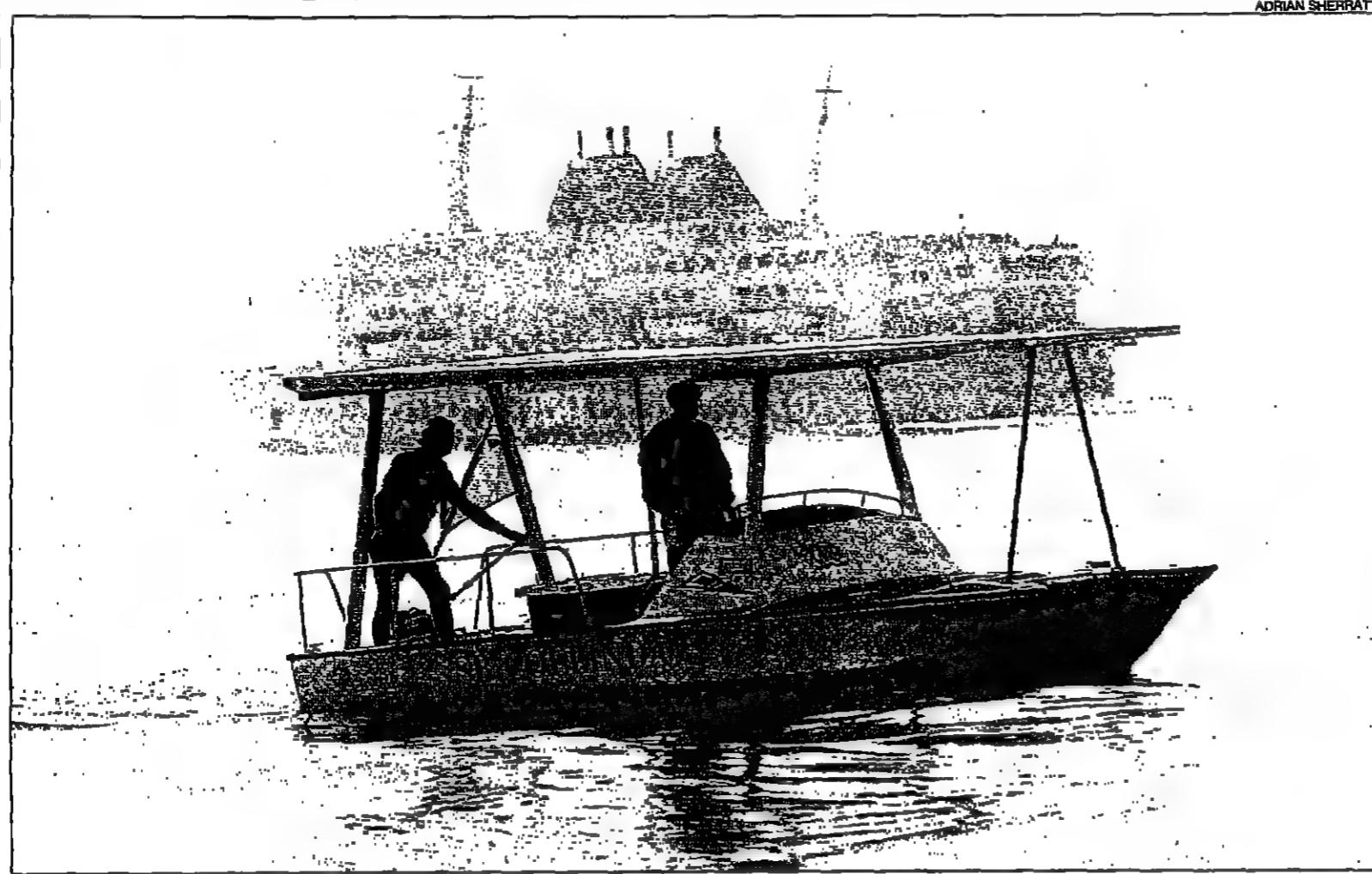
Documents revealed that O'Brien had supplied 172 Ecstasy tablets and other drugs worth £1,500 to student friends since January.

Michael Trueman, for the defence, said that O'Brien's actions had brought shame on his mother, a voluntary care worker, and his father, a brewery director.

"He went from being a highly academic, responsible, hard-working sixth former at Bradford Grammar School to a naive and foolish first-year university student supplying drugs because he thought people would think of him as cool," Mr Trueman said.

"He was a fresher, a young intelligent man, clearly impressionable, and he was drawn into the misuse of drugs."

Mr Trueman added that it was not a venture for profit. O'Brien insisted that he had given up supplying drugs two weeks before his arrest, after friends warned him of the risks involved.



Vessel of the future: the solar-powered catamaran *The Collinda* sails into Calais after making a historic Channel crossing in July

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL campaign to make boating more compatible with the environment is to be launched with government and industry backing, it was announced yesterday.

Over the past decade there has been a boom in sales of leisure boats and craft like jet skis. The number of people classed as regular boaters is estimated to be 4.7 million and growing, a survey for the British Marine Industries Federation shows.

But the rise has triggered alarm among conservationists and government advisers about the pollution and noise impacts of power boats on rivers, estuaries, coastal areas and inland lakes. Jonathan Selwyn, of the Centre for Environment and Eco-

'Green boat' scheme will try to tackle environment threat

onomic Development in Cambridge, said yesterday there was evidence that engine noise disturbed the feeding of fishes and birds. Too many boats travelling at high speed in sensitive areas could cause banks to erode.

"Where aquatic vegetation is encountered, it may be uprooted and chopped by propellers," Mr Selwyn said. Other damage may come from

boat-owners who discharge sewage into sensitive sites or launch vessels where young fish feed or birds breed. Mr Selwyn said the insensitive use of jet skis was a particular problem. "They have shallow hulls and can access areas off limits to larger craft." The two-year initiative on "green" boating, called *Navigate with Nature*, will focus on owners of pleasure craft,

to whom it will distribute leaflets and information packs.

The campaign was unveiled at Eco Boat 97, being run by the Broads Authority and backed by the Environment Agency and British Waterways. It is funded by the Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions and the British Marine Industries.

The national campaign follows a recent pilot in Poole Harbour. Catherine Saunders, also of the centre, told a conference yesterday at Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk, that the scheme had proved a huge success with thousands of green boating leaflets distributed. A helpline to the Environment Agency has also been set up so that boaters can report any spills of paint, toxic chemicals and substances such as anti-freeze.

Cassini mission to Saturn delayed

Investigations may have to be curtailed if spacecraft misses its ideal launch 'window', reports Nigel Hawkes

THE last great space mission of the 20th century has been threatened by a faulty air-conditioning unit.

The October 6 launch of Cassini, a \$3.3 billion mission to Saturn and its moons by a spacecraft the size of a single-decker bus, has had to be postponed after technicians at Cape Canaveral in Florida found that it had been damaged by a blower designed to keep part of the spacecraft cool.

British scientists have been heavily involved in planning and building many of the instruments on the spacecraft and its Huygens probe.

The delay will be at least a week, and possibly longer. The entire spacecraft has had to be removed from the Air

2004. The blower ripped a piece of insulation on the probe designed to protect it when it enters the atmosphere of Titan, one of Saturn's moons.

The probe has 34 generators fuelled by radioactive materials and needs constant cooling before launch. It must now be detached from the orbiter so that damage can be assessed and repaired.

Cassini-Huygens has been described as the last of the big, expensive space probes as Nasa policy now is to launch more frequent but much

cheaper missions. One British team involved is led by Dr Carl Murray, of Queen Mary and Westfield College in London, which contributed to the most sophisticated camera system sent on such a mission.

The cameras will take 300,000 pictures of Saturn and its moons, including Saturn's "braided" F-ring, features within the planet's atmosphere, and Iapetus, an outer moon with one hemisphere covered by shadow.

Another team, at the University of Kent, has designed and built instruments on the

probe which will descend to Titan by parachute. The probe will have to survive temperatures of several thousand degrees as it enters Titan's atmosphere at more than four miles a second.

When it lands on Titan — after a seven-year, two billion mile journey — there may be less than an hour's power left in the batteries to relay information to orbiting Cassini. The team responsible do not even know if it will hit solid rock or an ocean of methane — so Huygens has been designed to float.

Dr Paul Murdin, of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, said that repairing the damage should not be too complicated.

Plans by English Heritage to raise money for the restoration of the Albert Memorial by cladding it with a huge poster of a model promoting designer clothes have been rejected by Westminster City Council. English Heritage needs to raise £4 million to add to the £10 million pledged by the Government to restore the 125-year-old monument. Objectors to the advertisement, which would have been lit from sunset to dawn, said the plan was visually adverse and objectionable. The council said the 25 m by 9 m poster would appear alien and out of scale with its surroundings.

Paedophile jailed

John Hargreaves, 50, a paedophile with a record spanning four decades, was jailed for 12 years at the Old Bailey for an attack on a boy aged 13. Hargreaves, 50, a catering executive from Wood Green, north London, was convicted of male rape and an unnatural sex act. He denied the charges. Judge Stephen Robbins told Hargreaves, whom he had earlier described as a recidivist paedophile: "You represent a very grave risk of causing serious physical, emotional and psychological harm to young boys. The protection of the public must take absolute priority."

Fine follows civic unrest

A former mayoress and wife of a Labour councillor punched the leader of the Plaid Cymru opposition on Rhondda Cynon Taff council at the end of an official dinner. Carolyn Dower was fined £200 at Cardiff Crown Court on Friday and ordered to pay £200 compensation to Pauline Jarman, 52, who was taken to hospital after the incident. Dower, 55, was found guilty of assaulting Mrs Jarman, causing actual bodily harm. Judge Peter Jacobs said: "The sad thing is the behaviour seen here is one more associated with young people we describe as hooligans."

Killer may appeal

Howard Hughes, the North Wales man told he should never be freed from prison for the rape and killing of a seven-year-old girl, was granted leave to challenge his convictions by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Lord Justice Otton said the plea by Hughes, 32, that the judge who presided over his trial at Chester Crown Court last year failed to warn the jury about the reliability of his alleged confessions to the killing of Sophie Hook, merited further consideration. Hughes, from Colwyn Bay, was given a life jail sentence by Mr Justice Curtis on July 18 last year.

Teachers find Mozart soothes the savage breast

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

MOZART can soothe even the most disruptive pupils into improving their performance, according to research to be published next week which could lead to a classroom transformation.

Separate studies to be reported to the British Educational Research Association have shown that background music can produce startling results. A previously uncontrollable class of teenagers with learning difficulties registered average scores close to the national average after two years of lessons to Mozart and other classical composers.

A study by academics at London University's Institute of Education found that hyperactive children benefited most from the calming influence

of music played during mathematics lessons. Their behaviour improved markedly but pupils of all types increased their workrate.

Dr Susan Hallam, who will present the findings at a conference in York, said: "We have always been aware that music can put people in a good mood, but little has been known about its influence on children in class. Quite how it works we don't yet know, but the difference in pupils' results shows that something is going on."

Anne Savan, a science teacher at Aberdare Boys' School, in South Wales, will outline her theory of the process next month in a psychological journal. She said yesterday: "It was a question of survival on my part originally. I was presented with a group of pupils we could do nothing with, and I decided to try out back-

ground music after seeing a documentary about an experiment in Paris."

Mrs Savan played a tape of Mozart concertos, recommended by her son, an Oxford University music student. "We think that Mozart is particularly effective because he wrote in a higher register than other composers. I have music playing before class starts and I just lower the volume when I talk."

The group of 13 slow learners, including ten with behavioural problems, responded immediately. Noise levels in class dropped and the quality of work improved to such an extent that most were only one level behind expectations for 14-year-olds when they took national curriculum tests.

Because the effects were so marked, Mrs Savan carried out her own tests to determine whether the changes were physiological. She found that her

pupils' blood pressures, temperatures and pulse rates, which all rose during normal lessons, fell consistently when music was played.

Mrs Savan believes that high-frequency sound stimulates the brain to produce an endorphin, which is responsible for the improvements. A parent governor has donated £1,000 for more sophisticated equipment and a number of other schools in mid-Glamorgan have started trials.

Dr Hallam's study, with fellow researcher John Price, used a variety of composers. "We found that instrumental or orchestral music worked best."

Mrs Savan is embarking on a PhD at Reading University to try to isolate the factors behind the phenomenon, while Dr Hallam is examining the study habits of university students to determine the part that music plays.



Mozart: music a help in disruptive classrooms

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soldiers charged with smuggling drugs

Five soldiers are to appear in court charged with conspiracy to smuggle drugs. They were among seven soldiers arrested after the discovery of 8kg of heroin worth £2.5 million. The soldiers, from 39 Regiment Royal Artillery, based in Ouston, Northumberland, will appear before St Helens magistrates on Merseyside.

Two others were committed for trial yesterday, charged with attempting to smuggle the drugs. Peter James Jackson, 29, and Billy Gee Stott, 19, both with the 57 Battery 39th Regiment Royal Artillery at Abermari Barracks, Northumberland, appeared before magistrates in Dover. They were charged that at Coquille, France, they attempted to smuggle Ecstasy and heroin through the Channel tunnel. There was no application for bail. A pretrial hearing was fixed for September 29 at Canterbury Crown Court.

Jeffrey Bernard is dead

Jeffrey Bernard, the writer and *bon viveur*, who wrote of his colourful life in Soho bars, has died. He was 65. The author of *The Spectator's "Low Life"* column died on Thursday night just days after refusing dialysis treatment for kidney failure. Frank Johnson, *Editor of The Spectator*, in which Bernard's column was published for 21 years, said that the Soho habitué was irreplaceable. "General columnists are two-a-penny but Jeffrey was the son of a journalist, an editor can never replace. The Soho he described was so much his own invention. He was a kind of prose-poet of the louche. There will be no more *Low Life*." At the Coach and Horses public house in Soho, one of Bernard's favourite haunts, there was an empty seat at the bar. Obituary, page 23

Playtime accident

Rosemary Stones, 3, was taken to Bradford Royal Infirmary, after falling head first on to a nail on a gate as she chased ladybirds round a neighbour's garden in Bradford on Thursday night just days after refusing dialysis treatment for kidney failure. Frank Johnson, *Editor of The Spectator*, in which Bernard's column was published for 21 years, said that the Soho habitué was irreplaceable. "General columnists are two-a-penny but Jeffrey was the son of a journalist, an editor can never replace. The Soho he described was so much his own invention. He was a kind of prose-poet of the louche. There will be no more *Low Life*." At the Coach and Horses public house in Soho, one of Bernard's favourite haunts, there was an empty seat at the bar. Obituary, page 23

Lay-by body trio in court

Three men were to appear in court charged in connection with the murder of a man whose body was found dumped in a lay-by. The body of Paramjit Singh was found off the A19, eight miles north of Thirsk, North Yorkshire, on Saturday. Mr Singh, 38, who was from Chorlton on Medlock, Greater Manchester, had a single gunshot wound to the head. North Yorkshire police said that a 22-year-old man has been charged with his murder. Two other men in their 40s have been charged with conspiracy to perpetrate the course of justice. The three men, who are all from the Greater Manchester area, were due to appear before Northallerton magistrates.

Heroin substitute kills 91

A heroin substitute prescribed by doctors killed three times as many Scots last year as heroin. James Meldrum, Registrar General for Scotland, said that methadone was involved sometimes with other drugs, in 91 deaths. Heroin was linked to 31 deaths. After methadone, the drug most frequently involved in deaths was the sleeping pill diazepam, which is also used to relieve anxiety and alcohol withdrawal symptoms. Mr Meldrum said that it was linked to 72 deaths, morphine was linked to 51 deaths, temazepam to 37, Ecstasy to 7 and cocaine to 3. Drug-related deaths in Scotland rose from 251 in 1995 to 267 last year while deaths of those known to be drug-dependent increased from 155 to 172.

CJD fund launched

A fund has been set up in the name of a vegetarian victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Clare Tompkins, 24, right, had not eaten meat for 11 years. The fund was set up after donations came flooding into the family home near Tonbridge, Kent, from around the world. Her father, Roger, and family members decided that the money should be used for research into the human form of "mad cow" disease.

Memorial ad rejected

Plans by English Heritage to raise money for the restoration of the Albert Memorial by

Company rejects criticism of timing while safety fears are highlighted

Transco to make 2,500 redundant



By OLIVER AUGUST

TRANSICO, the former British Gas supply arm, will make 2,500 employees redundant, prompting fears over safety of its gas pipelines.

The move was attacked for the depth of the cuts — reducing the workforce by 15 per cent — and its timing. Privately union officials were critical that the news of the job losses came out on the eve of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. One suggested that the company wanted it to be "less of a story".

Transco rejected the suggestions. A spokesman said:

"This was a leak not an announcement and the leak didn't come from us. We were planning to do something later this month. We would never have allowed this to get out the day before Diana's funeral. We wouldn't dream of doing something so silly."

BC, chaired by Richard Giordano, is blaming the staff reductions on an efficiency drive made necessary by the recent ruling by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

About 1,000 employees will lose their jobs by Christmas and a further 1,500 are to go next year. Transco wants to achieve the cuts voluntarily but unions said there was little

scope for voluntary redundancies after 25,000 job losses over the past three years. "There may well be compulsory redundancies. The compensation package has not been sorted out yet but it will be worth millions," Transco said.

The MMC imposed a one-off 21 per cent price cut on BG, Transco's parent company, earlier this summer. All 19 million household customers are expected to see average bills cut by £29. Transco is supposed to accelerate the cutting of distribution charges over the coming five years.

The MMC ruling became necessary when BG and Clare Spottiswoode, the industry

regulator, could not agree on a new price formula. Ms Spottiswoode had originally proposed a slightly lower cut than the one later imposed by the MMC. The Transco spokesman said: "The MMC felt there was scope for further cutbacks. But in the end the regulator will determine the way our housekeeping will benefit."

While there were no further cuts planned, he said: "No one will be able to put their hand on their heart and say the other jobs will be totally safe." Transco said it did not yet know in which areas the job cuts would be made. Its workforce stands at 16,000.

GMB, which represents many of Transco's staff, said it was surprised by the level of redundancies. A spokesman said: "We are stunned. We were aware that Transco was considering job losses following the MMC decision, but not on a scale like this."

Another union at Transco, Unison, said the job cuts would not actually reduce consumers' bills as the MMC has hoped. Peter Marshall, a union negotiator, said: "Transco is trying to beat the MMC target to be able to pay the dividend. It makes me very angry that this company is being destroyed because of the regulator's beliefs. But it won't

help the consumer. The savings won't be passed on. Only the shareholders and contractors replacing employees will benefit."

The unions also protested that safety standards will suffer as a result of the job cuts.

Mr Marshall said: "All sorts of other things like routine maintenance and connections may have to go in order just to provide that basic safety service."

Transco denied that safety standards could decline. The spokesman said: "You always have to be efficient as well as safe."

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WEEKEND MONEY

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TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.27	2.08
Austria Sch	21.28	18.60
Belgium Fr	62.02	57.81
Canada \$	1.32	1.18
Cyprus Cyp	0.892	0.881
Denmark Kr	11.68	10.68
Egypt £	1.17	1.04
France Fr	10.1	9.28
Germany Dm	3.04	2.81
Greece Dr	4.80	4.41
Hong Kong \$	11.92	11.38
Iceland Kr	1.98	1.81
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.04
Israel Shk	5.91	5.28
Italy L	2.02	1.95
Japan Yen	206.93	188.40
Malta	0.698	0.607
Netherlands Old	3.454	3.189
New Zealand \$	2.41	2.11
Norway Kr	12.47	11.63
Portugal Esc	308.93	281.60
Spain A	8.17	7.21
Sweden Kr	13.29	12.53
Switzerland Fr	2.82	2.30
UK £	27.89	25.97
USA \$	1.663	1.580

Rates for small denominations, only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveler's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

What the Jesuits were to the pope, the McKinsey consultancy firm is to the modern captain of industry ...

Tomorrow, in *The Sunday Times Business*, an exclusive extract from *Dangerous Company: The Consulting Powerhouses and the Businesses they Save and Ruin*

THE SUNDAY TIMES
15
THE SUNDAY PAPERS



Kevin Lomax said the acquisition left MISYS excellently positioned in a very fast-growing market, but the market gave the deal a mixed reception

New year date for GEC chairman

By ADAM JONES

LORD PRIOR, chairman of GEC, told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that a new, non-executive, chairman would not be appointed until the new year.

He also sought to dampen speculation that Sir Roger Hurn, chairman of Smits Industries, had emerged as a favourite for the position. Authorisation of the board's controversial new long-term incentive plan was put to a shareholders' poll after intervention from PricewaterhouseCoopers, the governance researchers.

Tony Hardy, the commissioners' investment manager, asked four questions on defence equipment sales, as well as exports to Indonesia. Lord Prior told shareholders that the company had sales of £20 million to Indonesia so far. He also said 10 per cent of GEC's defence activities concerned military hardware rather than electronics.

The US healthcare computing market is valued at \$12 billion, and MISYS forecasts that it will grow at 25 per cent a year.

MISYS last year made \$24.6 million before tax, on sales of \$121.3 million. It has 10,000 system installations serving an estimated 50,000 doctors.

"Put this together with US

Stake plan for NWM employees

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

NATWEST MARKETS, the troubled investment arm of the high street bank, is considering the introduction of a scheme giving its 7,000 staff a 25 per cent stake in the business.

NatWest yesterday confirmed that Chip Kruger, NWM's chief executive, is talking to Derek Wanless, the bank's chief executive, about the introduction of an equity participation scheme.

At the same time NWM, which saw interim profits jump to £58 million, just a quarter of last year's comparable profits, has said it is to scrap profit-related pay for its staff.

Peter Sedgwick, Schröders' deputy chairman, said the increase in the first half was

Schroders beats Pru to top funds league

By JASON NISSE

SCHRODERS has overtaken the Prudential to become Britain's largest fund manager, capping a decade of phenomenal growth, although its reign at the top is expected to last only a few weeks.

The merchant bank saw the funds it manages grow by £17 billion in the first six months of the year to reach £104 billion. This puts it ahead of the Pru, which has £100 billion under management for the first time in its history.

At the same time the Pru, which saw interim profits jump to £58 million, just a quarter of last year's comparable profits, has said it is to scrap profit-related pay for its staff.

Peter Sedgwick, Schröders' deputy chairman, said the increase in the first half was

THE SUNDAY TIMES
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THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Stagecoach buses face pressure on costs

By GEORGE SIVELL

BRIAN SOUTER, chairman of Stagecoach, told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting that the transport group's bus division would face severe cost pressure in the next two to three years.

Mr Souter blamed the phasing out of profit-related pay, increases in fuel and the tightening of the labour market. "In addition" he commented, "there is still considerable uncertainty concerning the Government's policy in this area."

Mr Souter told shareholders that the whole company was currently trading in line with expectations.

The shares dipped 3½p to 664½p, compared to the 799p all time high struck earlier this year.

Shareholders were also told that Ann Gloag, Mr Souter's sister and a co-founder of Stagecoach, would reduce her involvement in running the company. He said in future she would concentrate on the group's property interests in Britain and overseas.

Windfalls 'contributed only £2bn to boom'

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BUILDING society windfalls may have contributed only £2 billion of extra consumer spending so far, suggesting the retail sales boom this year has not been as strong as impeded.

A survey by MORI, in cooperation with the Bank of England, estimates not only how much of the £35.9 billion in windfall gains this year has been spent but also how much consumers would have spent even without the proceeds of their building society shares.

From questioning 764 people last week, MORI found that of £5.2 billion of windfall money spent on big ticket items, £3.2 billion would have been spent even without the proceeds of their building society shares.

From questioning 764 people last week, MORI found that of £5.2 billion of windfall money spent on big ticket items, £3.2 billion would have been spent even without the proceeds of their building society shares.

That appears to back the Bank's case for raising interest rates repeatedly since the elec-

tion of Burberrys next month. She replaces Stanley Peacock, 65, who was responsible for building Burberrys into an international brand with £1.3 billion annual sales.

Miss Bravo has 26 years of experience in the fashion industry. She was chairman and chief executive of I Magnin, the West Coast specialty retailer that is owned by Macy's.

executive of Burberrys next month. She replaces Stanley Peacock, 65, who was responsible for building Burberrys into an international brand with £1.3 billion annual sales.

Miss Bravo has 26 years of experience in the fashion industry. She was chairman and chief executive of I Magnin, the West Coast specialty retailer that is owned by Macy's.

First six months 1997

excellent results:

net profit increases by 28% to U.S.\$ 1,031 million

shareholders' equity increases by 28% to U.S.\$ 23.1 billion

expectation for whole of 1997: marked increase of net profit per share

	First six months 1997	First six months 1996	% change
Result before taxation: *)	739	617	19.8
- insurance operations	740	541	36.8
Net profit	1,031	804	28.3
Net profit per ordinary share	1.35	1.13	20.3
Interim dividend per ordinary share	0.53	0.44	20.5
	31 December 1996		
Total assets **)	288,728	247,682	16.6
Shareholders' equity ***)	23,139	18,011	28.5

*) Result: U.S. 1.00 = NLG 1.884 (average exchange rate)

**) Assets and shareholders' equity: U.S. 1.00 = NLG 1.864 (exchange rate on 30 June 1997)

In the first six months of 1997 business volume, results, shareholders' equity and total assets showed continued strong growth.

All the Group's activities contributed to this growth.

Total income from the insurance operations rose by 28.0% to U.S. 11.6 billion. Total income from the banking operations increased by 23.8% to U.S. 3.6 billion.

The result from the insurance operations rose due to an increase of 12.9% in life insurance (to U.S. 352 million), of 42.2%

in non-life insurance (to U.S. 141 million) and of 19.3% in insurance-general (to U.S. 246 million).

In the banking operations, interest result increased by 16.3% to U.S. 2,095 million, commission income by 27.6% to

U.S. 873 million and the result from financial transactions by 68.0% to U.S. 476 million.

Provisions have been made for future expenditure for a total amount of U.S. 171 million.

In the first six months of

A WORKING WEEK FOR: JOHN MONKS

Wary leader in search of unity and influence

JULIAN HERBERT

Philip Bassett, on the eve of the TUC's annual conference, listens as its General Secretary talks his way through the week



JOHN MONKS is pleased. "After years of exclusion," the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress says, "the TUC is playing its proper part in the life of this country." That proper part will be symbolised next week when the TUC's annual conference is addressed by an extraordinary trinity: the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, and, for the first time since 1978, by a serving Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Tony Blair's election victory is central to the prospect of the TUC and the UK's trade unions playing a new part in the life of Britain. In the hall in Brighton where James (now Lord) Callaghan, the last Labour Prime Minister, sang a Marie Lloyd music hall song to signal his refusal to call a general election, so opening the way for the "winter of discontent" strikes that led to the downfall of his government, Mr Blair will set out his modernising vision for Britain's trade unions so that they can play what he sees as their proper part in helping to renew the country.

Like the rest of Britain, the TUC has been affected by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Indeed, had the TUC not moved from its traditional first-week-in-September conference slot, this year's gathering would unquestionably have been scrapped, just as in 1939 when the Second World War was declared. As it is, in the light of today's funeral, the TUC has abandoned its traditional eve-of-conference cricket match between top trade union leaders and the industrial correspondents of the national media. However, Monday's conference opening will include a tribute to Diana.

Mr Blair's scrapping of all his meetings last Monday after the death of the Princess led to the postponement of the TUC's longed-for first formal meeting in almost two decades with a Labour Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street. But Mr Monks led in the TUC's team the following day for talks on key issues for the unions, like Mr Blair's longstanding pledge to introduce new laws requiring employers to recognise collective bargaining where a workforce majority wants it.

Within a few days, Downing Street declared the Government's readiness to

legislate — though Mr Monks and other senior union leaders will have to swallow the bitter pill of a further delay, having not been included in the Government's first round of legislation. The White Paper will not be published until next year.

In spite of that, Mr Blair's aides want unions, as they want everyone else, to know that the Prime Minister is determined in his purpose. During this year's election campaign, Mr Blair said of trade union leaders sceptical about his intentions: "When are these guys going to realise I mean what I say?" For business as well as unions, this is a crucial test to learn: the reality is that despite the hopes of some employers and the cynicism of some union leaders, there will be legislation — on recognition, on a minimum wage and other labour issues as part of ten significant changes in employment law.

Mr Monks knows it already. After publicly stating his disappointment at not seeing union needs recognised in this year's Queen's Speech, the TUC leader is taking the new delay on the chin. He dismisses any notion that it indicates any backsliding on the part of the Prime Minister: "Tony Blair did say that he was going to do what he was going to do. I have always taken him at his word. I have never had any reason to doubt that word."

Mr Blair has dominated

Mr Monks' working

week — in meetings of the TUC's governing executive and general council, talks with the Prime Minister, in endless questions from journalists in pre-conference interviews about Mr Blair's attitude towards trade unions, and his employment programme. He will dominate his working week next week, too: in his speech to conference, and in the public addresses and private briefings from the phalanx of ministers going to Brighton, and in what the unions will be saying about what they want from a Labour Government.

The TUC leader is wary about the "rhetoric of opposition", as he calls it, which he says "has been our stock weapon for so long" — wary that it will be replaced by the rhetoric of the shopping list: what Labour can now do for the unions. Instead, he and other more farsighted union leaders are more interested in what unions can do for Labour, and by that for the country as a whole. "The challenge is to engage with government in the most constructive way," he says.

But even union leaders supportive of

He talks of finding a third way between the trade union attitudes of blind loyalty or open conflict shown towards previous Labour governments. While some close to Mr Blair quip wryly that they wouldn't mind a bit of blind loyalty from some union leaders, whose dislike of Mr Blair is all but public, such a process of modernisation is precisely what the Prime Minister wants to see from the unions.

That is partly because blind loyalty from trade unions has often slipped inexorably into open conflict: Mr Monks recalls that the last two out of the three periods of Labour government since the war have ended in conflict between the Government and the TUC — conflict that led to Labour losing office.

The TUC leader is determined it will not happen again. "Nobody is looking for a fight," he says. "There is a mature mood around. Deals are being done — in the public sector, in local government, in private industry. People are looking to do the best they can in what they recognise are difficult circumstances."

Even so, union leaders supportive of

Mr Blair believe that he has a mix of thoughts and feelings about the TUC and unions collectively. They think he is facing a blend of advice that ranges from retaining the Conservatives' fully-flexible labour market as the low-cost option for Britain's competitiveness, to its opposite of a high-value, high-wage economy.

They think he has a keen knowledge of how Labour governments have gone "wrong on unions in the past. And they think that the Prime Minister's view of unions as components of the Labour Party is that their best level of involvement is on an individual basis — union members as individual members of the party.

Even so, union chiefs like Mr Monks believe that the record of Labour in government on employment issues central to trade unions amounts so far to a "very positive balance sheet" — signing the EU social chapter, setting up the Low Pay Commission on the minimum wage, ending the union bar at GCHQ, signalling the end of rebalancing union dues, pumping money into the proposed New Deal on jobs. "There are very significant differences from before May 1," he says.

There is no talk of social contracts, or 1970s-style corporatism, of pay deals, or incomes policies. But there is much talk of partnership — with the Government, with union leaders now reintegrated into Whitehall, and serving on the task forces and advisory groups that the Government has established; and especially with business, with the TUC and the CBI engaged in talks about "narrowing the differences", as the Prime Minister calls it, on key issues like union recognition.

In his speech on Monday, Mr Monks will wrestle with the thorny but central issue of finding that third way for unions — their role with a Labour Government and with the country. "What unions can do for the Government is quite considerable," he says, citing work on the New Deal, on training and on equality as immediate issues.

His critics — not many in the unions, where he is regarded with a rare near-unanimity of approval — see him as too supportive of Mr Blair, with his much-vaunted "New Unionism" project of renewal for the unions in Britain — American and Australian-influenced, but essentially a carbon copy of Mr Blair's New Labour project. He denies the charge, insisting there are real differences and possibly real tensions: there will be times when the TUC will want something from Labour that Labour will not be prepared to give, he says.

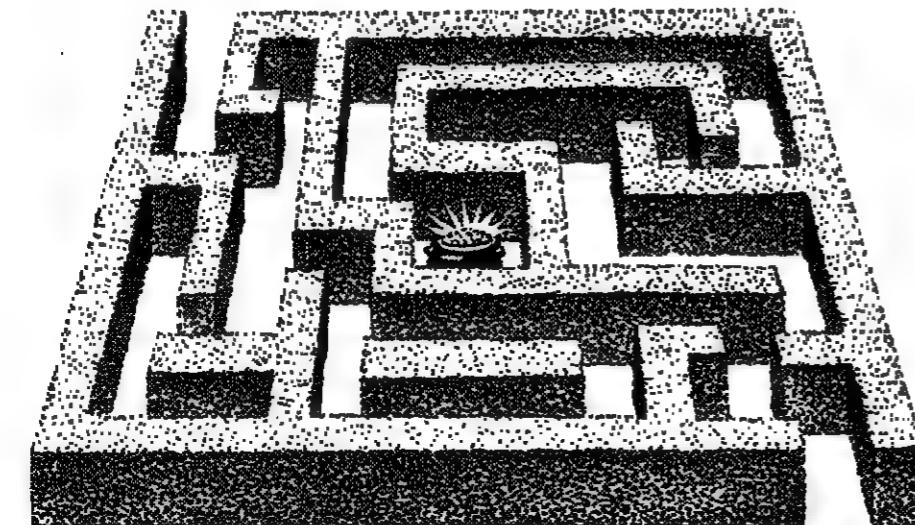
"My job is to encourage people to the broader view about what we can bring to the table, rather than just what we want from it," Mr Monks says. Such an objective is difficult, but, Mr Monks is determined to stick to his course, whatever the buffering. "To find a constructive role is important," he says. "That's my ambition. We have to find it."

Pleased with Labour's election victory he may be; but, like Tony Blair, John Monks sees it as far from an end in itself. But for the unions it is a new beginning.



John Monks, the TUC General Secretary. "The challenge for the trade unions is to engage with the Government in the most constructive way."

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TB60997

Hammerson warns on property growth

BY CARL MORTISHED

HAMMERSOM yesterday gave warning that the commercial property market has little more than two years of growth ahead before entering into decline after 2000.

Ron Spinney, chief executive, said Hammerson would not chase development opportunities in central London despite a scarcity of new buildings likely to become available within the next two years. He said: "To speculate on the cycle continuing after two years is not the best decision."

Hammerson shares fell 15p to 449p after the company revealed a fall in interim profits, adjusted for exceptional items, from £31 million to £30 million. This reflects the loss of £1 million in rental income as tenants vacate the Bull Ring site in Birmingham where Hammerson plans a £350 million redevelopment. The company suffered a £3.7 million currency hit because of the translation of rental income from the Continent.

Rents from Hammerson's shopping centres grew 12 per cent and the French properties saw a £500,000 rise in income to £8.8 million. However, the office portfolio is suffering from the level of historic rents, still some 20 per cent ahead of current market rates. Mr Spinney said the level of earnings did not reflect the underlying performance and

pointed to pre-leasing of the anchor stores at the Oracle shopping centre in Reading and the £80 million redevelopment of Globe House on London's Embankment, let to BAT at £7 million a year. Adjusted earnings per share stayed at 7.9p and the interim dividend rises 3 per cent to 3.8p.

Tempus, page 31



Ron Spinney is advising a cautious approach

Profits in reverse at Henlys

BY GEORGE SIVELL

HENLYS, the bus and coach-making company, yesterday promised an improved second half after re-organisation costs hit half-year profits (Alasdair Murray writes).

Henlys shares fell 39.5p to 404p as it unveiled a 5 per cent fall in interim profits, excluding tax, to £16.2 million.

The company blamed spending of £1.8 million on improving productivity levels in its UK bus and coach-making factories and a resulting fall in margins. Prevost, the company's Canadian joint venture with Volvo, lifted profits 40 per cent to £6.5 million.

The dividend rises 10 per cent to 5.5p, payable on October 3. Henlys is confident that bus replacement by privatised companies in the UK and growth in the luxury coach market in North America will continue to drive growth.

Lloyds TSB sells offshoot for £235m

BY GEORGE SIVELL

LLOYDS TSB is selling its Business Technology Finance subsidiary to Newcourt Credit of Canada for £225 million.

BTU is part of Lloyds TSB and is based in Bristol. It specialises in sales aid financing of office equipment, and has assets of £81 million.

Lloyds TSB said that BTU's existing BTF business will be sold to BTU's 160 employees in Bristol, and that it may need to take on more staff as business increases.

Newcourt was established in 1983 to rechannel insurance company cashflows into finance for equipment manufacturers, dealers and distributors. It now finances sales for more than 200 manufacturers.

The company's shares are listed in New York, Toronto and Montreal. Newcourt is buying BTU largely to provide finance for

Suppliers of schools to merge

Nottingham Group Holdings and Philip Harris are to merge forming Novara, one of Britain's biggest suppliers of equipment and materials to the UK education markets.

The merger will take place via an offer of 3.425 Nottingham shares for each Philip Harris share, valuing Philip Harris at £4.1 million. The terms give Nottingham shareholders about 58 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Yesterday Nottingham also reported a fall in interim pre-tax profits to £3.1 million (£3.6 million). The interim dividend is held at 1.84p a share.

Litho rises

Litho Supplies, the printing supplies company, saw a 12.5 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £4.04 million. The interim dividend rises 9.2 per cent to 3.44p.

Chief quits

S Jerome & Sons, the wool company, said Stephen M Jerome, joint managing director, wishes to leave the company with effect from Monday. He joined it 31 years ago.

Wood down

Arthur Wood & Son, the earthenware manufacturer, suffered a 36.9 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £131,824 in the six months to the end of June. The interim dividend is unchanged at 2p.

Alizyme to list

Alizyme, the AIM-listed drug group, aims to seek a full listing next year when it has three of its research drugs on clinical trial. In the six months to end June 30, Alizyme lost £1.3 million (£65,000 loss).

NIE sale

Northern Ireland Electricity is selling Shoptec, its appliance retailing chain, to a joint venture led by 3i for £1 million.

15 NIGHTS
Departs on Saturday
CABINS AVAILABLE
£125 per person
£109 Standard two-bed cabin
£129 Standard two-bed cabin
£139 Superior two-bed cabin
£149 Family cabin
£159 Family cabin
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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Shares breach the 5,000 level with early surge

SHARE prices in London breached the 5,000 level again, after five days of consecutive gains, to end the week on a firm note.

The week saw investors contend with a major sell-off on Far Eastern markets and volatile performances in New York in the face of conflicting economic news.

Throughout all of this London managed to retain its composure and, despite some shaky moments, investors managed to regain the high ground. Yesterday the FTSE 100 index marked time for much of the morning, but moved into top gear once the better than expected US employment numbers and subdued average earnings were published.

At 2pm the index was 24.3 up at 5,015.6, with turnover of just 303 million shares. It stretches the rise on the week to 19.6.

Brokers in the Square Mile remain convinced that the next move in US interest rates will be upwards. The only question now is when.

Last Friday's Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index suggested that the long-awaited rise in rates may be imminent. On the day the Dow Jones industrial average responded accordingly, dropping more than 200 points.

With Wall Street closed on Monday, for Labor Day, the London market had to spend a further anxious 24 hours to see if share prices could pull out of their nosedive. The wait proved worthwhile and, backed up by some weak data from America's manufacturers, the Dow managed to claw back much of the previous Friday's losses as worries about rising interest rates and collapsing markets in Asia took a back seat.

Admittedly, turnover levels all round have left much to be desired. But survival was the name of the game and by last night most traders decided that surviving the week had been an achievement.

According to Merrill Lynch, it may all be irrelevant, anyway. The Thundering Herd told clients on Thursday that a 25 per cent correction for the Dow is on the cards for the middle of next year after it hits an all-time high of 8,500.

Yesterday saw an early mark-up in BTG before it was announced that Shell had developed a new generation of traction fluids that can be used



George Greener showed confidence in Hillsdown

in Torotrak, its variable automotive transmission system. BTG responded to the news with a leap of 74p at 780p, after briefly touching 791p, where the company carries a price tag of £735 million. BTG turned to shareholders back in June, in order to raise a further £25 million to develop the gearing system. The company is due to give a series of

precluded Cable & Wireless from bidding for stock in the forthcoming float of a 25 per cent stake in China Telecom (Hong Kong). C&W had been hoping to link up with China Telecom as part of a massive expansion plan on the Chinese mainland. It is hoped \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) will be raised from the sale of the stake. Cable & Wireless ended

the heavily discounted rights issue from Misys left its shares 126p lower at £14.72p. It plans to raise £321.5 million by way of a two-for-seven at £1.50. The money will be used to acquire the Nasdaq-listed Medic, one of the five largest investment technology companies in the US supplying doctors with software systems.

Psion rallied strongly as brokers began to reflect on prospects in the wake of Thursday's profits warning. Despite recent production problems, brokers are becoming increasingly convinced that the Series 5 personal organiser will provide a long-term boost to earnings.

Philip Harris stood out with a jump of 28p to 268.1p on learning of the proposed agreed merger with Nottingham Group. The terms value Harris at £31 million and the enlarged company will carry a price tag of £70 million. Nottingham finished 21p dearer at 170.1p.

One man who has every confidence in Hillsdown Holding's future is George Greener, the company's chief executive. Just a day after unveiling the group's strategy for the next year, he has bought 50,000 shares at 170.1p.

A profits warning left Border Television 16p lower at 381.1p. James Graham, chairman, told shareholders that stagnant television advertising revenues and start-up costs would make an impact on profits in the current year.

"In real terms, after making provision for the retail price index, our income from television has in fact registered a slight decline," he said.

Increased losses and once again no dividend left Towry Law 3.1p lower at 31p. GEC rallied from an earlier fall to end 1.1p dearer at 395.1p, the first time past 200p, after announcing it was hoping to make fuel savings of £30 million a year on the back of its £1.5 billion contract with British Nuclear Fuels. The deal is also expected to generate profits of £100 million.

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presentations to institutions next week.

Recently privatised British Energy jumped 21p to a high of 204.1p, the first time past 200p, after announcing it was hoping to make fuel savings of £30 million a year on the back of its £1.5 billion contract with British Nuclear Fuels. The deal is also expected to generate profits of £100 million.

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THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Patrick Collinson says analysts expect a 12-month wait for the next demutualisation

Carpetbaggers pause to regroup

Is carpetbagging fever, which saw thousands of windfall hunters besiege building societies in search of windfall payouts, now over? Or is the virus simply lying low, before it sweeps through the remaining mutual organisations?

This week HSBC Markets, the investment house, in a report entitled *Windfalls: Is 1997 just the beginning?* said that "conversion fever is alive and well." It forecasts that the £35 billion in windfall payouts this year will be followed by a further £25 billion over the next few years. The bonanza could be even bigger if the trend away from mutualism spreads through life insurance companies and even to collectively owned organisations such as the RAC and the AA.

At the top of the carpetbagger's hitlist are the three largest remaining building societies, Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley and Britannia. All three fiercely assert that they are wedded to the concept of mutualism. A Nationwide spokesman said: "It's simply in the long-term interests of our seven million customers. As a mutual, we pay better savings rates and offer lower mortgage rates."

Nationwide claims that it has held its mortgage rate 0.4 per cent below demutualised rivals, which translates into a £250 a year saving on a £50,000 mortgage. It is not difficult to work out that in only six years the savings on a Nationwide mortgage will be greater than the average society windfall payout. The society is tentatively dropping the barriers it erected to new membership accounts before the vote, although the minimum investment of £5,000 is ten times the minimum before the carpetbagging craze.

Bradford & Bingley says its commitment to mutualism is "completely concrete." A spokesman said: "You can go elsewhere if you want to get your hands on some quick cash. We are not for turning. Mich-

This week JP Cairngorm, a small Edinburgh investment manager, unveils a £100 million investment trust which is designed to cash-in on the £290 billion that could be unlocked if every building society and the 15 largest life offices demutualised. (Patrick Collinson writes).

Ken Murray, JP Cairngorm's chief executive, believes rationalisation will result in the United Kingdom having just six or seven financial groups by the turn of the century.

"This imminent restructuring will be the biggest single money-making opportunity in the United Kingdom for some years to come and will provide enormous potential for profit," Mr Murray said.

The trust, which is sponsored by HSBC James Capel, will be invested in a range of different stock market instruments. About one-third will be in permanent interest bearing



ael Hardern and his band of dissident members who attempted to force the Nationwide to convert have been fought off and the temperature has now cooled." B&B is allowing new members to open membership-qualifying instant-access accounts for a minimum balance of £1,000, paying 3.85 per cent. Britannia also allows new membership accounts, with a £2,000 balance paying 4.5 per cent.

But the bellows of defiance fall on deaf ears in the City. Jonathan Loynes, a HSBC Markets analyst, said: "There is still a fair chance that the Nationwide itself is unable

to continue to resist the pressures to either convert or be acquired for very long. The vote was more a thumbs-down to untested management than to demutualisation, and the promise of a big cash payout may be too tempting to resist at the next opportunity." A Nationwide conversion would produce a total payout of about £7 billion.

Another leading City analyst said: "I think Bradford & Bingley secretly wanted Nationwide to demutualise, so it could have an excuse to say there's nothing more in it for mutuality. The biggest societies, analysis say, are more likely to

convert as they have been behaving like pips for years and have lost touch with their local roots. Senior management have often come from non-mutual companies and are psychologically less attached to mutuality. However, analysts do not expect a big demutualisation for at least another 12 months.

The societies have also launched a fightback campaign against the carpetbaggers. In the corridors of Whitehall they are lobbying furiously for the non-enactment of a clause in the Building Societies Bill which obliges all new accounts to offer membership status. They are

also seeking to bar members of less than two years' standing from benefiting from a conversion.

In one case a society is even considering taking direct action against an individual carpetbagger. Skipton claims that one person assaulted a member of staff in a South of England branch when he was refused a membership account. "Our staff are still suffering from the rudeness and demands of carpetbaggers, and I have to say it was particularly bad in the South," said a Skipton spokesman.

The small societies, which would see their reserves swallowed by fees

for conversion and which would almost certainly be gobble up by larger institutions if they float, are far less likely to demutualise. They are likely to continue as niche mutual lenders with specialist customers, such as the Catholic Building Society. But demutualisation does not stop at building societies. Norwich Union's £4.2 billion conversion has whetted the carpetbagger's appetite for life offices, though sharing in a payout is going to be much less easy and lucrative than opening a £100 building society account (see right).

The truly dedicated carpetbagger is, however, already looking beyond life offices and building societies. Healthcare provider Bupa could be worth £1 billion on the Stock Exchange, although no one is sure how it could be forced on to the market, and in any case it is likely that the windfall would go to the charitable trust that owns Bupa's assets. Dial-a-Cab, if floated, could be worth £7,000 to each of its taxi-driver members, and the AA and the RAC could conceivably float.

The AA is essentially a members' club — albeit with a revenue last year of £543 million and a members' fund containing £139 million — which owns several subsidiary companies. Only individual members, about 4 million, are eligible to vote and thus able to benefit from any potential restructuring of the organisation. However, an AA spokesman is adamant that the organisation has absolutely no plans to change its structure. "This is a media exercise and we have no intention of even speculating about changes," a spokesman said.

The Co-operative organisations are perhaps the ripest cherry for carpetbaggers, but Andrew Regan's high-profile failed attempt to take over the non-food business of the Co-operative Wholesale Society suggests that windfalls from that sector may be some way off.

QUICK GUIDE TO CASHING-IN AT LIFE OFFICES

■ Friends Provident, NPL, Scottish Life and Scottish Provident are favourites to demutualise, but Scottish Widows and Equitable Life are also frequently named.

■ Investors must be in a life office with-profits fund to ensure a windfall on demutualisation. The cheapest method is a ten-year with-profits bond. Typical minimum investment £2,500.

■ Poor investment performance may wipe out windfall gains. Fees and commission may be high, so carpetbaggers should pick execution-only brokers. Kohn Cougar, a Bristol financial adviser, says some non-traditional with-profits bonds may not qualify investors for membership.

■ A with-profits endowment policy, normally for mortgage repayment, should qualify though charges may be high and surrender values low.

■ Another way to benefit is by buying a second-hand endowment. Mark Rosen, chief executive of the SEC, says that conversion bonuses could be as high as £15,000.

■ Chartwell Investment Management (0125 446556) has produced a 12-page guide to life-office carpetbagging priced at £5.

POTENTIAL FOR WINDFALLS

Building Societies	£10bn
Life Insurance	£7bn
General Insurance	£3bn
Others	£5bn
TOTAL*	£25bn

* Unit 2002. Source: HSBC Markets

Trust to target both societies and life offices

securities issued by building societies, which will qualify for demutualisation windfalls.

Nearly a half will be placed in other fixed-interest investments, with the remainder in quoted stock market companies which may benefit from takeovers and rationalisation.

JP Cairngorm successfully launched a £14.5 million building-society-only invest-

ment trust in April 1996. However, 15 months later the trust's share price is 102.5p, just two and half a pence (or 2.5 per cent) more than the launch price.

More encouraging than the trust's share price is its net asset value performance, which was up 14.5 per cent in the first year. However, those investors who had tracked the booming financial sector of the United Kingdom equity

market would have enjoyed a gain of about 20 per cent over the past year.

The trust carries an annual charge of 1.25 per cent, compared with 0.5-0.6 per cent on a typical equity-investment trust, although it is principally invested in fixed-interest securities, it can expect a yield of about 5 per cent.

John Szymanski, investment trust analyst at SBC Warburg, the securities house, said: "It looks relatively low risk but it is quite esoteric and looking for investment of £100 million is quite ambitious."

Some investors may also recall Mr Murray's earlier attempt to benefit from the restructuring of building societies.

Five years ago he was a key player behind the Bank of Edinburgh, which failed in its aim to acquire a number of societies and merge them into a single financial services group.

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Emerging anxieties

Contagion is a worrying word for investors. The spread of currency crashes and falling stock markets right across the Asian tiger nations is certainly worrying, just when a stake in emerging markets was becoming de rigueur for portfolio advisers.

Much of the appeal of global emerging market funds is to pay experts such as Templeton's Mark Mobius to pick markets as well as stocks for you. Buying a fund devoted to a medium-sized economy abroad is like buying individual blue chips at home. Funds give a spread of economies as well as companies. Even in whole countries, high growth goes with high risk.

The idea that such a global fund can capture exciting growth without suffering global risks to asset prices might have carried a grain of truth for the pioneers. It has been an illusion for some time. The influence of American interest rates, for instance, reaches into the most obscure corner because it affects the climate in which foreign investors make their decisions.

In 1992-93, when US short-term rates stayed low, stock markets boomed from Bangkok to Bogota, along with American and European bond prices. In 1994, when America's Fed Funds rate doubled to 6 per cent, Western bond prices slumped and shares sagged. So did emerging markets, first in Asia, then in South America. And when the Mexican peso fell at year end, most Latin American currencies and shares fell with it. Asian markets were affected too, though less severely. By the end of 1994, American investors, by now a crucial

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

force, had started to back the developing boom at home. They had a double motive for withdrawing funds.

Latin American shares fell by half in a few months on the MSCI dollar fund index. Since then, they have progressively recovered, finally scaling new peaks this year, helped by America's booming export and stock markets.

In emerging Asia, share prices fell about a fifth in the second half of 1994. Since then, the picture has grown ever gloomier. In Bangkok, the share index has been in free fall since early 1996. Malaysian shares recovered strongly in 1996 but have plummeted since January. In Singapore, prices sagged year by year. Hong Kong has been the greatest exception. Overall, Asian funds have been losing ground for four years. Since they account on average for a third of portfolios, most global emerging market funds have been lousy investments for a long time, going nowhere during a period when Wall Street shares doubled.

The new element is this summer's currency turmoil, which is really a hangover from 1994. Key Asian currencies have been pegged to the dollar. They survived the squalid that felled weaker South American economies. But that has hurt them as competition from China has grown and their crucial Japanese market has been flat as the Pacific ocean. Japan had also provided a lot of the inward investment.

High interest rates finally triggered a debilitating financial crash in Thailand. There has been structural trouble in South Korea too. But Hong Kong, being part of China and trading mainly with America, has been immune from much of this and has been strong enough so far to shrug off the infection.

The typhoon season is far from over. The storm may be the end of one long process, but will require a period of painful economic adjustment, as happened in Latin America. This will have a political dimension and badly needs recovery in Japan.

Accepting that global spread does not immunise against global risks should not destroy the magic of emerging markets. The past four years have been dire, but over the longer period since the start of 1988, \$100 invested in emerging market funds should still be worth about \$300, against \$350 on Wall Street. New countries and new regions will refresh the funds. China, India and Russia will become more important. Economic growth should, in the long run, still outpace the developed world. But much patience will be needed.

Important news for Allied Dunbar Unit Trust Investors

Threadneedle. A powerful force in investment

Take a look at what Threadneedle has to offer and you'll see why our approach is generating an increasing amount of interest from today's investors.

• **Innovation** Our new range of investment funds, are state-of-the-art: modern, flexible, with crystal clear investment aims.

• **Consistency** Our investment approach places the emphasis first and foremost on consistent, reliable long-term performance. With a clear investment process behind this objective, Threadneedle is building a distinctive reputation.

• **Expertise** There's a wealth of experience in our investment team — one of the largest in the City. This expertise has been applied to the successful management of funds for Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star over the last three years.

If you're an Allied Dunbar unit trust holder, you should by now have received important information about the conversion of your unit trusts to Threadneedle. If you have any questions or would like further information, please call our free Fund Rationalisation Helpline on 0500 386 227.

 Threadneedle investments

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Anne Ashworth seeks expert advice on Northern Rock's prospects

DIANA
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1961 - 1997

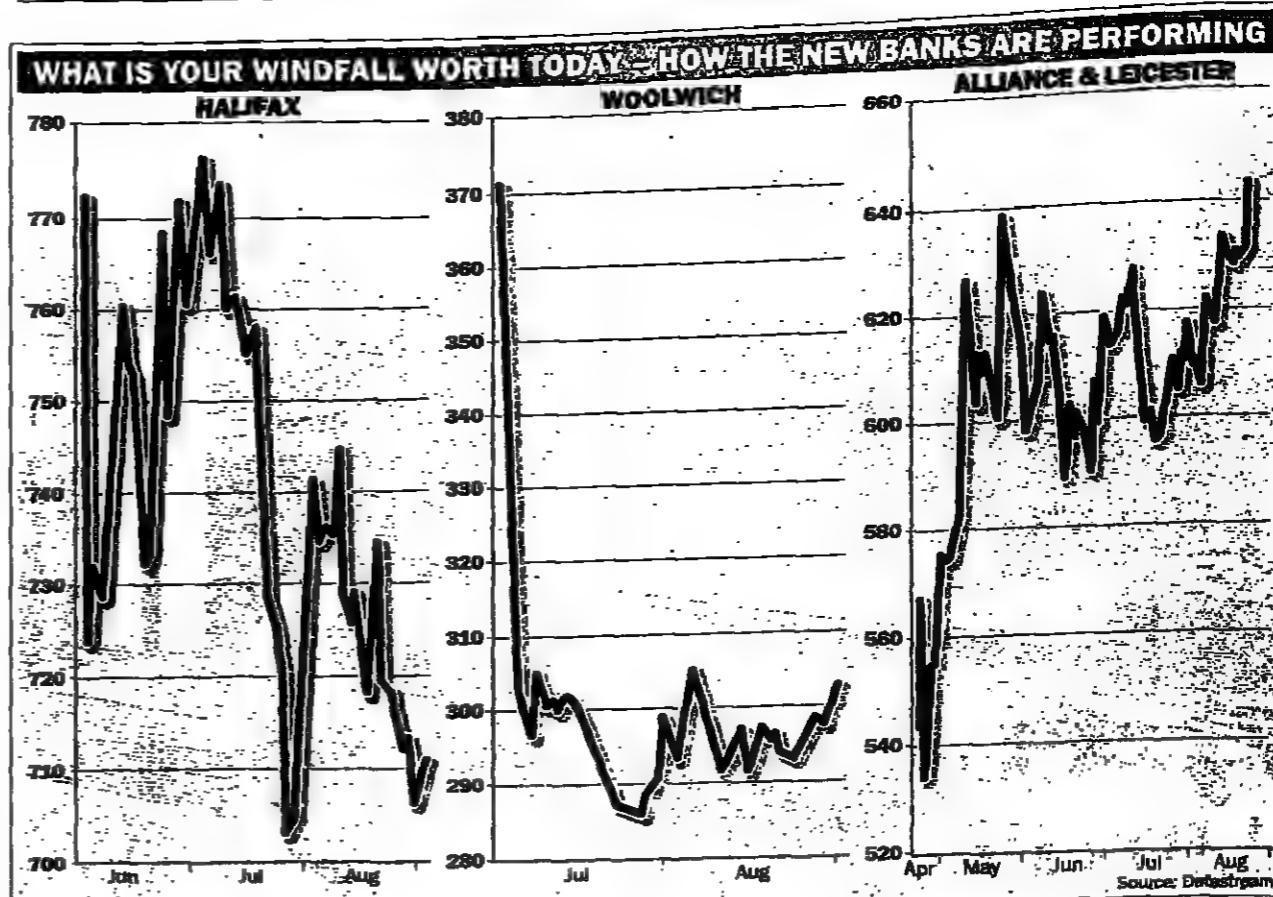
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A solid rock of an investment

The flotation of the Northern Rock, the smallest society to come to the stock market this year, has been overshadowed by the other supersized conversions. But, as its October 1 market debut approaches, the Northern Rock is now seizing its share of the lime-light.

This week, Wise Speke, the broker, forecast that the shares could open at 390p each, giving a windfall of £1,950. As those who are both borrowers and savers will be entitled to two sets of free shares, this could mean a total of £3,900.

Geoff Miller, Wise Speke banking analyst, said that Northern Rock was one of his firm's "preferred buys". He considers that the business, at this price, a cost-streamlined organisation, has considerable potential for growth, in contrast with some of the other recently converted societies.

James Johnson, banking analyst at Credit Lyonnais, is more cautious, looking more towards 360-390p. He points out there will be little bid premium in the price, as few expect that the Northern Rock will succumb to a predator. The law makes the takeover of a converted society very difficult, as it enjoys a five-year period of protection from predators. In theory, the converted society could be taken over, but 75 per cent of all

shareholders would have to vote in favour. This protective shield would be lost if the society itself went on the takeover trail. But the Northern Rock is now seizing its share of the lime-light.

These City forecasts compare with the society's own estimate of 260-290p which would imply a windfall of £1,300 to £1,475. This estimate, made in February, has not been updated in spite of the recent surge in banking shares. When the society's conversion was announced in 1996, the value of the 500-share payout was estimated at £1,000.

The Northern Rock is now sending out forms asking whether members wish to sell or hold their shares. These forms must be returned by September 26. Those who wish to retain their stakes should complete form A, either opting to have their shares in a Northern Rock Shareholder Account or to get share certificates. The Shareholder Account is a nominee account, but customers will still be entitled to attend and vote at annual meetings. Those members wishing to sell must complete green form B. This service will cost £10 for every 500 shares. The

soon-to-be-former society and its advisers hope to hold only one auction, on September 30. They believe that this will prevent institutional investors who are required to put in bids for the shares from manipulating the prices.

Adam Applegarth, Northern Rock's executive director, believes that the activities of the institutions caused the wide fluctuations seen in the auction prices of the other converted societies. The Woolwich, one of the widely fluctuating stocks, has seen its price fall from a high of 372.5p on July 4 to 284.5p by July 28. However, the shares have recently rallied in advance of the stock's entry into the FTSE 100 index of leading shares on September 22.

Unlike the Northern Rock, the Woolwich appears to have little potential for growth but continues to be seen as a takeover stock. There is also some excitement that the new bank may announce a special distribution to shareholders next May. Mr Johnson considers that both Alliance & Leicester and Halifax appear unlikely to rise much further in the short term. He commented: "The Halifax is fully valued in relation to the other stocks in its peer group, including Abbey National."

Martin who?

Take a look at the table below. It's performance like this that's made us the Investment Week Unit Trust Group of the Year for 1997...

Performance that counts - wherever you want

Quintile positions	One year	Three years	Five years	Since launch
Martin Currie International Growth Fund	1st	1st	1st	1st
Martin Currie International Income Fund	1st	1st	1st	1st
Martin Currie Global Growth PEP Fund	1st	—	—	1st
Martin Currie Japan Fund	1st	1st	1st	1st
Martin Currie North American Fund	2nd	1st	1st	2nd
Martin Currie Far East Fund	1st	1st	1st	1st

SOURCE: MORNAL. UNIT FUND NAME INDEX SETS OUT THE INVESTMENT OVER PERIODS TO 1 AUGUST 1997. LAUNCH DATES: INTERNATIONAL GROWTH - 14/1/79; INTERNATIONAL INCOME - 17/4/95; GLOBAL GROWTH PEP - 21/3/94; JAPAN - 1/9/92; NORTH AMERICAN - 1/9/92; FAR EAST - 1/9/92.

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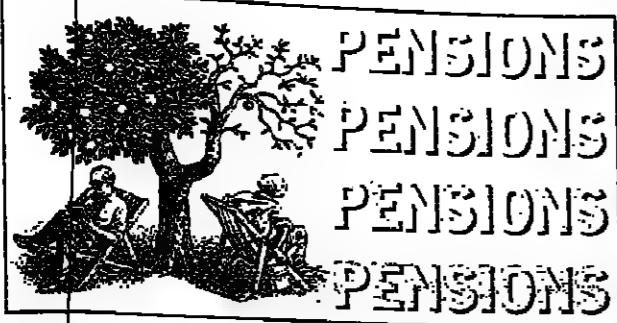
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Woolwich looks to the age of retirement

The newly floated Woolwich entered the pensions fray this week, with what it claims is a no-frills, value-for-money plan aimed at customers who do not have company pension.

But a snapshot survey by *The Times* shows that the new Woolwich pension has higher charges than the low-cost telephone-based rivals, such as Legal & General Direct and Virgin Direct. The survey also shows that in spite of strenuous efforts by regulators to enable consumers to shop around, buying a pension is still a baffling and arduous task.

Anyon attempting to arrange a pension needs information on future performance and the different investment options available. Our survey showed that this information was both difficult to obtain and to assess. The pension shopper has to compare bid/offer spreads, annual charges, allocation rates, and a host of differing product features such as waiver of premium, optional life cover and contracting out.

We compared Woolwich's new offering with Eagle Star Direct, Scottish Widows, Legal & General Direct and Virgin Direct. Each company was asked to supply a quote for a 30-year-old woman putting in £100 each month for the next 30 years, adding up to a total of £36,000 in contributions.

The result? The highest return, assuming a 9 per cent growth in the investment every year (or below) comes from Legal & General, which projects a pension pot of £146,000 in total after charges. This will provide a pension, on current annuity rates, of £13,000 per annum. Woolwich forecasts a payout of £133,000, the same as Eagle Star, while Scottish Widows and Virgin are slightly higher at £135,000 and £135,333 respectively.

Robin Johnson, Woolwich pension operations director, said: "We've built into our pensions of flexibility, and face-to-face advice. We're not offering pensions on the cheapest possible basis, but we are aiming at being in the top quartile of all pension providers or charges, and for all time period, not just over 30 years."

Woolwich, while not the

PATRICK COLLINSON

LOW-COST PENSION PLANS

Quotes are based on a 30-year-old paying £100 per month for 30 years and 9 percent growth pa.

■ Woolwich
Projected sum: £133,000
Total deductions: £15,500
Charges: Initially nil, monthly fee £2.50, annual charge 1 per cent.

■ Scottish Widows
Projected sum: £135,000
Total deductions: £10,500
Charges: Bid/offer spread 5 percent, annual 0.875 fee in years 1-15, Plan fee £2.06.

■ Legal & General
Projected sum: £146,000

Total deductions: £8,880
Charges: bid/offer spread of 5 per cent plus 10.22 per cent allocation rate.
Equates to initial charge of about 3 per cent. Annual charge 0.5 per cent, monthly fee £1.50.

■ Virgin Direct
Projected sum: £137,533
Total deductions: £13,002
Charges: None initially, 1 per cent annual fee, falling to 0.7 per cent in last ten years. £2 per month.

■ Eagle Star
Projected sum: £133,000
Total deductions: £15,700
Charges: 1 per cent annual charge, £2 monthly fee.

STUDY THESE PEP NUMBERS.

PEP Fund	Initial PEP charge	Average annual growth (5 yrs)
Save & Prosper Growth Pep	0%	27%†
Fidelity International Pep	5%	21%
Perpetual Pep Growth	5%	19%
Morgan Grenfell Int. Growth	5%	17%
Invesco International Growth	3%	16%
Barclays Unicorn Worldwide	5%	15%

*Subject to 0.5% Government Stamp Duty

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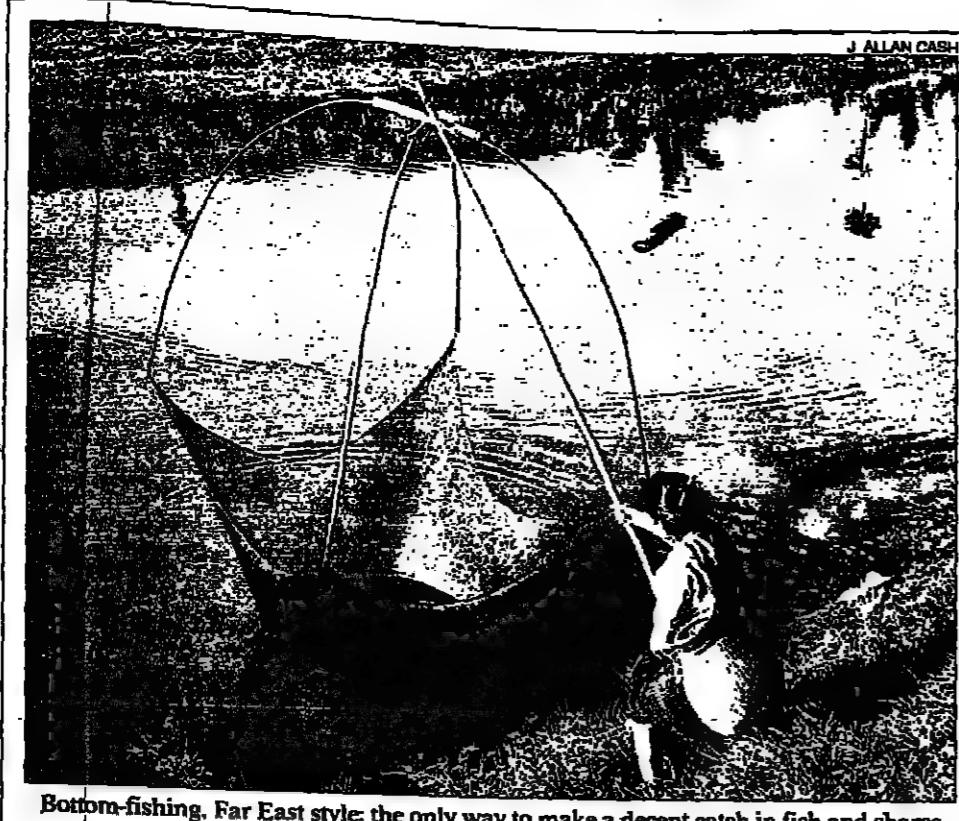
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† All figures are based on buying to selling price with gross income reinvested over 5 years to 1.8.97. Source: Mirobil. The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax concessions are not guaranteed; their value will depend on individual circumstances. Exchange rates may also affect performance. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. On 24.5.96 the investment objective of the fund (formerly known as Scotbit) was broadened from investment in financial services to investment in any economic sector. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. It was announced in the 1997 budget that from 6th April 1997 the income tax credit will no longer be reclaimable in a PEP and that other tax benefits may change with the planned introduction of a new individual savings account. Save & Prosper Group is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group. 1892/007

SCOTTISH WIDOWS



Bottom-fishing, Far East style: the only way to make a decent catch in fish and shares

Timing is all when fishing for Asian stocks

Bottom fishing may sound like a nefarious activity for most investors, but in the Far East markets it could soon be the only way of gaining any profit.

The term refers to the practice of investors who like to buy stocks and shares when they are cheap. It is most easily accomplished in markets that have fallen from their peak.

The Far East is showing strong potential for this kind of bargain-hunting. Since July 2, when Thailand devalued the baht, the region has been racked by currency speculation and stock market crashes. In spite of the injection of \$17.2 billion (£10.9 billion) by the International Monetary Fund the baht continued to fall, starting a domino effect that has taken in the economies of Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

In the past two months these markets have fallen between 20 and 40 per cent, stunning investors after a decade of "miracle" growth by the Asian tigers. The dream also turned sour for Mahathir Mohamad, Prime

Minister of Malaysia, whose increasingly extreme threats to foreign investors have fuelled the instability.

Such has been the fallout that even Hong Kong, traditionally the bastion of Far East markets, has dropped 15 per cent since its reintegration with China on June 30. This is because investors, anxious to reduce their weighting in the region, have found it easier to sell shares in Hong Kong than in the middle of the disaster zone. However, the market has begun to recover this week and is expected to reach its pre-handover level in the next few months.

In spite of the recent buffeting Hong Kong's long-term growth prospects, now it is incorporated in the potential world economic powerhouse of China.

Funds investing in the Far East have been badly hit, particularly those focusing on individual countries. Old Mutual's Thailand Fund, for instance, has dropped a fifth in value since July, according to Micropal, the statistics provider. Fidelity's

Asian unit trust has fallen more than 16 per cent in the same period. Investment trusts in the Far East, excluding Japan, have seen discounts on their share prices widen by a third, to more than 16 per cent, in the past month alone. Offshore funds have not fared any better.

After such trauma, investors in these funds have little option but to stay where they are in the hope that things will improve. For other investors, the turmoil in Asian stocks raises the tantalising possibility that they can get in at the bottom of a rising market, the classic way of making the most of your money. But should they leap in now or wait?

Ashok Shah, Far East portfolio manager at Old Mutual, says investors should wait three to six months before the market hits rock-bottom. He believes the region's governments have yet to acknowledge that they face at least five years of painful economic restructuring to remedy the mismanagement of the early 1990s

when the flood of capital into the countries not only pushed up debt levels but led to the creation of excess industrial capacity, just as they were beginning to face stiff competition. Asian exporters were additionally hampered by high interest rates caused by linking their currencies to the US dollar. It is this currency peg that has come under pressure from speculators such as George Soros.

Mr Shah says: "The market is forcing a solution. It is telling these countries that the only way to use their spare capacity is to be competitive. They have to devalue to make their exports cheaper." Until they face up to this he believes their stock markets face a rocky ride.

Peter Warwick, a fund manager at Flemings, believes the turning point could come sooner but only if the region's governments stop protecting their currencies with artificially high interest rates and if exports begin to rise in value.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

Sara McConnell and Lizanne Rose take a look at the poor rates now on offer

Small savers short-changed

Building societies and banks are short-changing smaller savers with derisory interest rates and slamming the door on those with hundreds rather than thousands to invest.

Savers' rates rose again this week to reflect the four base rate increases since May. All the main players report huge increases in savings inflows as people open accounts or build up balances in the hope of a better deal. This week, Barclays reported a 15 per cent year-on-year rise in numbers of savers. Last month, the Halifax said the amount pouring into its coffers had nearly trebled over the past year.

But those wanting to invest a few hundred and withdraw it when they want may as well put it under the mattress for all the interest they will earn in traditional banks and building societies. With the exception of Royal Bank of Scotland and the Midland, all the big high street institutions are paying negative real rates of interest on bal-

ances below £500. The main players are now paying respectable rates on bigger balances in "flagship accounts". Abbey National, for example, is paying 7.2 per cent gross on the minimum £2,000 balance in its recently launched Bonus Postal account. But there was no rise for Abbey customers with less than £500 in the branch-based Instant Saver account. They continue to earn 1.8 per cent gross.

Similarly, Halifax customers with less than £500 in a Liquid Gold instant access account have seen no rise on their 0.5 per cent gross since the start of the year. Woolwich Prime Gold customers are still earning 1.25 per cent gross on balances of less than £500 even after the new bank raised rates yesterday.

Some of the worst rates on offer are from building societies, including the Nationwide, which has spent millions proclaiming its commitment to mutuality by promising to use some of its profits to improve

rates for savers and borrowers. Its Cashbuilder account pays just 1.25 per cent gross to savers with less than £500 to invest. The Britannia, which has temporarily staved off calls from members to convert or merge by introducing a system of bonuses, is paying a laughable 0.1 per cent on balances of between £500 and £10,000.

Northern Rock members have just been freed from accounts, paying as little as 0.75 per cent gross on balances of £500 and can take their money elsewhere without risking forthcoming bonuses. But this raises the question of who wants their cash. Building societies have been so desperate to close their doors to potential carpetbaggers hoping for conversions that they have jacked up balances to levels unsatisfactory for many smaller savers. They will not get much joy from their own society, which admitted: "Lots of our products are aimed at people with £5,000 or more. We do recognise that some of our rates are not that good".

The Nationwide confirmed this week that it had no instant access account for new customers with less than £500 to invest. The Cashbuilder account has a minimum balance of £5,000, as does its InvestDirect postal account. It started taking applications for new accounts again last week after being overwhelmed by investors hoping for conversion bonuses. The society is "reviewing" minimum balances and says "it is one of the biggest disappointments about the recent situation created by carpetbaggers which meant that we didn't have any products for smaller savers".

The best many societies can offer is a savings account that offers them a regular income without too many withdrawals. The Bradford & Bingley pays 7.15 per cent to those saving a minimum of £10 a month for a year. The price for new customers opening an instant access account at the society, or postal account, is now £1,000. Nationwide offers 7.5 per cent to those putting in £20 a month for 11 months of the year.

No bonus for big Abbey investors

Savings institutions may seem to care little for small savers. But they do not always extend first-class service to the larger investors in the current target market. Hugh Heffer, pictured right, a *Times* reader, tried to open an Abbey National Bonus Postal account in late July. He did not receive a formal receipt for his deposit of £1,219.04 until this week.

When Mr Heffer contacted the bank, he was told that

they were "overwhelmed by the response" to the offer. He was tempted to close the account and withdraw his cash, but since the account had not been officially opened, he had no withdrawal forms. The Abbey said that the Bonus account had been more successful than expected. A spokesman said: "We have an emergency team working on this backlog. Investors will suffer no loss of interest."



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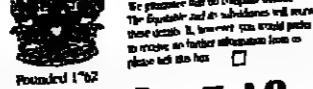
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□ The 885,000 beneficiaries of the Northern Rock conversion could be in line for a windfall of £1,950, double what was previously expected, when the society floats on October 1.

□ Abbey National is to charge its 400,000 Instant Plus account holders £1 for over-the-counter transactions to encourage them to use cash machines or the telephone banking service. The Abbey's move has been seen as the first step towards charges on current accounts.

□ Ofgas, the regulator, is working on plans to stem aggressive sales tactics of gas supply companies. Responsible marketing will be part of licence requirements rather than doorstep ethics

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RUGBY UNION

Cup demands likely to take their toll

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IMPERFECT its structure may be, but the great adventure that the Heineken Cup — in only two years — has become immerses the best teams of six countries this weekend. This season, moreover, its home-and-away formula will leave no room for error. Weaknesses will be ruthlessly exploited by sides seeking home advantage in the knockout stages and knowing that a good points difference could achieve that.

The fear that begins in Dublin this afternoon, when Leinster lay out their newly-awarded provincial champions title before Toulouse, will not conclude until January 31, when the final is contested at either a French venue or Twickenham. It will not have escaped British eyes that the cup has yet to leave France — Toulouse won the inaugural competition and, last season, Brive captured the hearts of the 44,000 who saw them beat Leicester in Cardiff.

A television audience of 35 million throughout the world also appreciated that final. "Sometimes, for no obvious reason, a competition catches the public imagination," Roger Pickering, the chief executive of European Rugby Cup Ltd, the tournament organisers, said as he extolled its virtues, but the reasons, in this case, are clear: this is a competition that is breaking parochial boundaries, that is a money-spinner and that has forced clubs to adopt a far more visionary approach.

It has also imposed great demands upon professional clubs still coming to terms with the new age. Leicester found that they could not keep the three balls — Europe, domestic league and cup — in the air a year ago and nearly dropped them all. Their rivals will have learnt from that not to set impossible targets. It will be no surprise to see the teams who contest the final in January faltering in domestic competitions, partly from anti-climax and partly because their best players will be taken for

international rugby. "We know that if we play anywhere near our potential for a sustained period of time, we are going to win something," Martin Johnson, the British Isles captain, who leads Leicester against Milan tomorrow, said.

Johnson is right to be cautious and to echo the approach taken by the Lions, who looked no further than one game ahead; at least the next six weeks allows the Heineken Cup sides to concentrate wholeheartedly on their European ambitions.

Qualification for the knockout phase alone will be tough, though the composite teams — Scotland's districts, Ireland's provinces, Italy's two reinforced clubs — may not suffer in comparison with clubs who have had little time in which to play competitive matches. Wasps, for example, go to Swanscombe tomorrow with only one Premiership outing behind them.

How many English players have the experience of playing against Welsh opponents? Internationals perhaps, but there are so few Anglo-Welsh fixtures that St Helen's tomorrow will be a new experience for many young players. The game within the game will be the confrontation at centre between the shuddering strength of Scott Gibbs and the Anglo-Irish combination of Rob Henderson and Nick Greenstock.

Bath go to Pontypridd tomorrow led by Jonathan Callard in the absence of Andy Nicol, their captain. Phil de Glanville, caretaker-captain for the last fortnight, sees to concentrate on his own game.

Leicester are unchanged against Milan, but Will Carling returns to Harlequins in time for the meeting with Munster at the Stoop.

Brian Ashton, the Ireland coach, has expressed interest in Kevin Nowlan, the Leinster full back from St Mary's College who faces the examination of his young life by the wily Christian Devaughan and his Toulouse pack.

Cup details, page 47

More to Wood than beef and bustle

DAVID HANDS



It is a catholic bookshelf which contains de Bono's *Lateral Thinking* check by jowl with *The Irish Phrase Book*, with Stephen Hawking for *Beginners* just down the way. Books that adequately reflect the lively, enquiring, humorous mind of Keith Wood, who is yet another reminder that the greatest characters in rugby union tend to come from the front row.

It has not been a good week for Wood. Harlequins, under his leadership, lost in controversial circumstances to Bath at the weekend and he has been snuffling around the house trying to shake off influenza.

The hooker, as sociable a man as you could wish, went back to his native Clare after the British Isles tour of South Africa and struggled to come to terms with the impact the Lions' success had upon domestic rugby followers. "I hadn't played during the last week of the tour because of injury, it wasn't physical exhaustion but total mental melt-down," Wood said.

"I was destroyed. People in my home town [Killaloe, about 15 miles from Limerick] who knew me respected that, but in Limerick, which is a place I love, I only went out the once and that was to a dinner that Garryowen laid on for me, which was brilliant. I just wasn't able to face people and talk about the rugby."

"It was bizarre ... apart from physiotherapy on my injury I virtually did nothing for three weeks except sleep. I was flattened by the whole experience and I still feel the residual effects now."

Now, of course, is yet another overcrowded season which gives



Wood, the Ireland hooker, a country boy at heart, has adjusted well to Harlequins and city life

little enough opportunity for the high-profile players to rest body and mind. So what do professional rugby players do, Wood is asked, to which the answer is that most of them are still learning how to manage the time they have available when they are not training or playing.

When Wood, 25 and the holder of nine Ireland caps, accepted a contract with Harlequins last year, he made himself a promise to stick it out, even if he hated the lifestyle. That was part of the challenge, not only to move from life in Limerick in a house shared with three or four other rugby players but to the quintessential Englishness of Harlequins and the big city.

"I thought I would hate it," Wood said. "I'm a country boy from Clare, but I'd been injured, I wanted the challenge. I was irritated with people dragging their heels in Ireland over professionalism; the die-hard amateur stance. I

had a good job but I wanted something fresh. I was ready for change. And now I find I enjoy London. Richmond and Twickenham are like little towns you make life what you want it to be."

Wood, the youngest of three brothers, never saw his father play. Gordon Wood propped Ireland and the Lions during the 1950s but died when Keith was only ten. His ambitions are his own and thrust him to the front of Irish rugby at an early age, although there was a time when hurling was his first love and his bustling, ball-handling approach derives from his time as a centre forward in that other sport.

In 1994, when he won the first of his caps, he returned from Ireland's tour to Australia with a hugely-enhanced reputation and the nickname of Fester from the

character in *The Addams Family* — the consequence of a shaven head and black eyes acquired in the hurly-burly of battle. That his total of caps has yet to reach double figures is the consequence of a series of (mostly) shoulder injuries.

Yet he survived the gruelling

South African experience until the groin injury which terminated his tour after the series was won. Now he can concentrate on the captaincy of his club — they play Munster tomorrow — and upon Ireland.

"The biggest honour I have had in rugby is to captain my country. The biggest achievement, which is slightly different, was to play in the winning Tests for the Lions," Wood said. "But my goal hasn't changed. It is to be as good as I possibly can be. That's not the cop-out some people say it is. If you are ambitious, and I am, it's the carrot I always have dangling ahead of me."

Ban threat to players who put club first

By DAVID HANDS

THE Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has brought the club versus country dispute to its conclusion by threatening a life ban on any player who will not conform to guidelines on availability laid down by the union. The decision, announced yesterday, is sure to bring protests from players contracted to English clubs whose fixtures may clash with Wales's national preparations.

"From this moment on, any player making himself unavailable for any senior Welsh team other than for reasons acceptable to the WRU (for example, illness, birth, death or marriage) should forfeit his right to be selected for any future Welsh team," Terry Cobner, the union's technical director, said.

Wales's efforts to enforce the requirements of the International Rugby Football Board, which dictate that national commitments must come first, were condemned as "draconian" by Mike Burton, the former England prop who now represents the interests of two dozen Welsh players, not all of them internationals and some of whom still live and play in Wales.

"It shows the paranoia swamping rugby unions worldwide," Burton said. "The game's expanding too quickly for them and it's not correct to restrict players in this way."

One of Burton's clients, Scott Quinnell, spent part of last season in dispute with the WRU and Quinnell's club, Richmond, will be furious at the edict. But players will now be forced to consider whether their contractual agreements at club level are worth more than the loss of international status, which carries with it immediate financial rewards and potential commercial advantages.

Richmond have seven Wales internationals in their squad while Ieuan Evans, Wales's leading try-scorer, recently moved to Bath, where Nathan Thomas and Richard Webster play. Harlequins and Moseley both have present or potential Wales internationals. There is no immediate clash with the English programme, but on March 7, when Wales play Scotland, there is a round of the Allied Dunbar Premiership scheduled.

REVISED TELEVISION SCHEDULES FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

BBC1

6.00 am *The People Gather* Coverage from Central London as the crowds begin to arrive (21225)
8.30 *Diana: A Newround Special* (20709)
9.00 *Diana: The Nation's Farewell* with David Dimbleby. Live coverage of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. The day's programming will include the procession and the service from Westminster Abbey (965606)
5.00 pm *News*, *Regional News*; *Weather* (235)
8.30 *Wallace & Gromit in the Wrong Trousers*. Another adventure from the award-winning Nick Park (815)
7.00 *Film: Free Willy* (1983) Heartwarming tale about a troubled young boy and his friendship with a captive whale (347564)
8.45 *Only Fools and Horses* Classic comedy with Del Boy and Rodney (649308)
9.35 *News*, *Regional News*; *Weather* (485709)
10.00 *Farewell to the People's Princess* A special tribute programme (5189)
11.00 *Pat and Margaret* Comedy drama (346167)
12.25 *am News* (3223891)
12.30 *Film: The Getting of Wisdom* (1977) Period drama set in an Australian girl's school (859842)
2.05 *Weather* (1124587) 2.20 Close

SUNDAY

7.20 *am Dilly the Dinosaur* (2375945)
7.25 *Teletubbies* (211552)
8.10 *The Pink Panther* (1572133)
8.30 *Breakfast with Frost* (34674)
8.30 *Cathedral* Behind the scenes of Norwich Cathedral (9089668)
9.45 *First Light* (640129)
10.15 *Cricket* Live coverage of the NatWest Trophy Final between Essex and Warwickshire (1510911)
11.30 *Countryfile* John Craven presents the rural and environmental magazine (2397)
12.00 *News* (6880113)
12.05pm *Think Tank* David Aeronovich and a panel of experts debate a topical social issue (4456216)
1.00 *EastEnders* Postponed omnibus edition (6784823)
2.25 *Cartoon* (32351755)
2.35 *Eastenders* Postponed omnibus edition (8472397)
3.35 *Bookworm* (6487756)
4.05 *Eastenders* This week's omnibus edition (1862674)
5.25 *The Clothes Show* New series of the fashion magazine (541755)
5.50 *News* and *Weather* Followed by *Regional News* and *Weather* (686007)
6.15 *Songs of Praise* Johnny Logan travels down the west coast of Ireland to the island of St Patrick's Purgatory (701378)
6.55 *Oh Doctor Beeching!* Comedy starring Su Pollard and Paul Sharpe (566194)
7.25 *The Antiques Inspectors* The team of experts visit Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk (841755)
8.10 *Full Circle* with Michael Palin (521484)
8.00 *Casualty* (197115)
10.15 *News* and *Weather* (216484)
10.30 *Everyman* Nigel Hawthorne investigates the clash between commerce and Christianity as Canterbury Cathedral nears its 1,400th (867945)
11.20 *Film: The 39 Steps* (1935) (863945)
1.00 *am Weather* (4497243) 1.05 Close

BBC2

6.00 am *Open University: Richard II: Politics, Patriotism and Authority* Shakespeare's Richard II (404631)
6.45 *Science and Nuclear Waste* (581761)
7.10 *Mozambique Under Attack* (6880363)
7.35 *Data About Data* (6071070)
8.00 *Oldie Goldie* (Children's BBC) (7722896)
8.10 *Peter Pan and the Pirates* (4023903)
8.30 *Beatrix Potter* (10151)
9.00 *Diana: A Newround Special* (35631)
9.30 *Diana: The Nation's Farewell* (964480)
9.50 *The Procession to Westminster Abbey* (2865525)
11.00 *The Funeral Service* Followed by one-minute silence (61273)
12.30 *Film: Lassie Come Home* (1943) Classic family adventure drama featuring the beloved collie (7554593)
1.35 *Old Duke* (87926708)
2.05 *Beatrix Potter* (3105603)
2.35 *Blue Peter* (5340525)
3.00 *Ferngully: The Last Rainforest* (2148709)
4.10 *Les Misérables in Concert* The long-running musical celebrates its tenth anniversary with a concert at the Albert Hall (49800235)
5.40 *Stephen Hawking's Universe* (571306)
7.30 *Faerie's Requiem* BBC Proms 97 (141419)
8.15 *Restless Nation* (10864)
9.05 *Bookmark* Not Waving but Drowning by Stevie Smith (151902)
9.55 *Film: Out of Africa* (1985) The story of Karen Blixen, who left Denmark in 1913 to marry a Swedish baron and run a coffee farm in Kenya (1239554)
12.30 *Film: The Lilies of the Field* (1963) Drama about the relationship between a former American soldier and a group of refugee German nuns (61303)
2.00 Weather (1123858) 2.05 Close

SUNDAY

6.05 am *Open University: Difference on Screen* (797262)

6.35 *Outsiders in: Muslims in Europe* (5540303)

7.25 *Open Sunday* (8168216)

8.00 *Little Polar Bear* (372652)

8.15 *Medical Matters* (3814303)

8.30 *Quasimodo* (72484)

9.00 *Foolish Book* (35507)

11.30 *Sunday Grandstand* (7674)

7.45 pm *Stephen Hawking's Universe* The professor charts the history of man's understanding of the night sky (646587)

8.35 *Star Trek: Voyager* A transporter accident causes chaos (786484)

9.20 *For Richer, for Poorer* A Nation Decides Gordon Brewer in Edinburgh, John Humphrys in Wales and Sue Cameron in England attempt to gauge public opinion on devolution (906587)

10.10 *Film: She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949) John Wayne stars as a Cavalry officer on the brink of retirement (514552)

11.50 *It's Just Not Cricket* with Rory BREMNER (732620)

12.20 *am Cricket* (2787359)

1.10 *Weather* (4486137) 1.15 Close

2.00 *Learning Zone: Summer Nights: Discovering Art* Essentials (52683) 4.00 Languages Business Languages Special (78663) 5.00 Business and Work: Get by in French (99750) 5.30 *Inland Revenue Self-Assessment* (99175)

LWT/GRANADA C/ITV

6.00 am *GMTV* (724815)
8.00 *ITN Coverage of the Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales* Continuous coverage of the funeral procession as it moves through the streets of Central London. The service at Westminster Abbey will be followed by a one-minute silence as a mark of respect to Diana, Princess of Wales (3142099)
4.00 pm *The Darling Buds of May* (2525)
6.00 *ITN News*; *Local News* (54254)
7.00 *Jane Austen's Emma* (83167)
9.00 *Farewell to a Princess* (7167)
10.00 *Film: Mermaids* (1877)
12.00 *Italian GP Qualifying* (2794649)
12.50 pm *Film: Full Moon in Blue Water* (771129) 2.36 *Rockmama* (8468165)
3.35 *Film: Mark of the Phoenix* (833113)
4.35 *Dear Nick* (4754652) 5.30 *News* (69668)

SUNDAY

6.00 am *GMTV* (7791758)
9.25 *Disney Club Carton* fun for children of all ages (2147620)

9.55 *Holy Smokes* A new religious series covering everything from Anglican to Zen Buddhism (1998233)

10.25 *Morning Worship* (5168991)

11.25 *Devotion '97 — the Future of the Union* An examination of the issues involved in home rule for Scotland and Wales (6463678)

12.15 pm <

Ferrari fanatics will accept only victory for team's fiftieth anniversary

Schumacher rides above the hysteria

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN
IN MONZA

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER noticed the panic in the eyes of a young boy who was in danger of being submerged by the scrum in front of the Ferrari garage here yesterday morning. He ushered him forward, scribbled an autograph and returned him to his mother. It was an endearingly gentle gesture with inevitable consequences.

The crowd surged towards Schumacher, babbling excitedly. Three bodyguards materialised by his side. A posse of photographers scuttled in the corner. In the stark, concrete slab of a main stand on the opposite side of the track, the spectators, propelled to their feet by a strange form of emotional osmosis, rose as one. Ferrari were back in town. *La passione* was unchallenged.

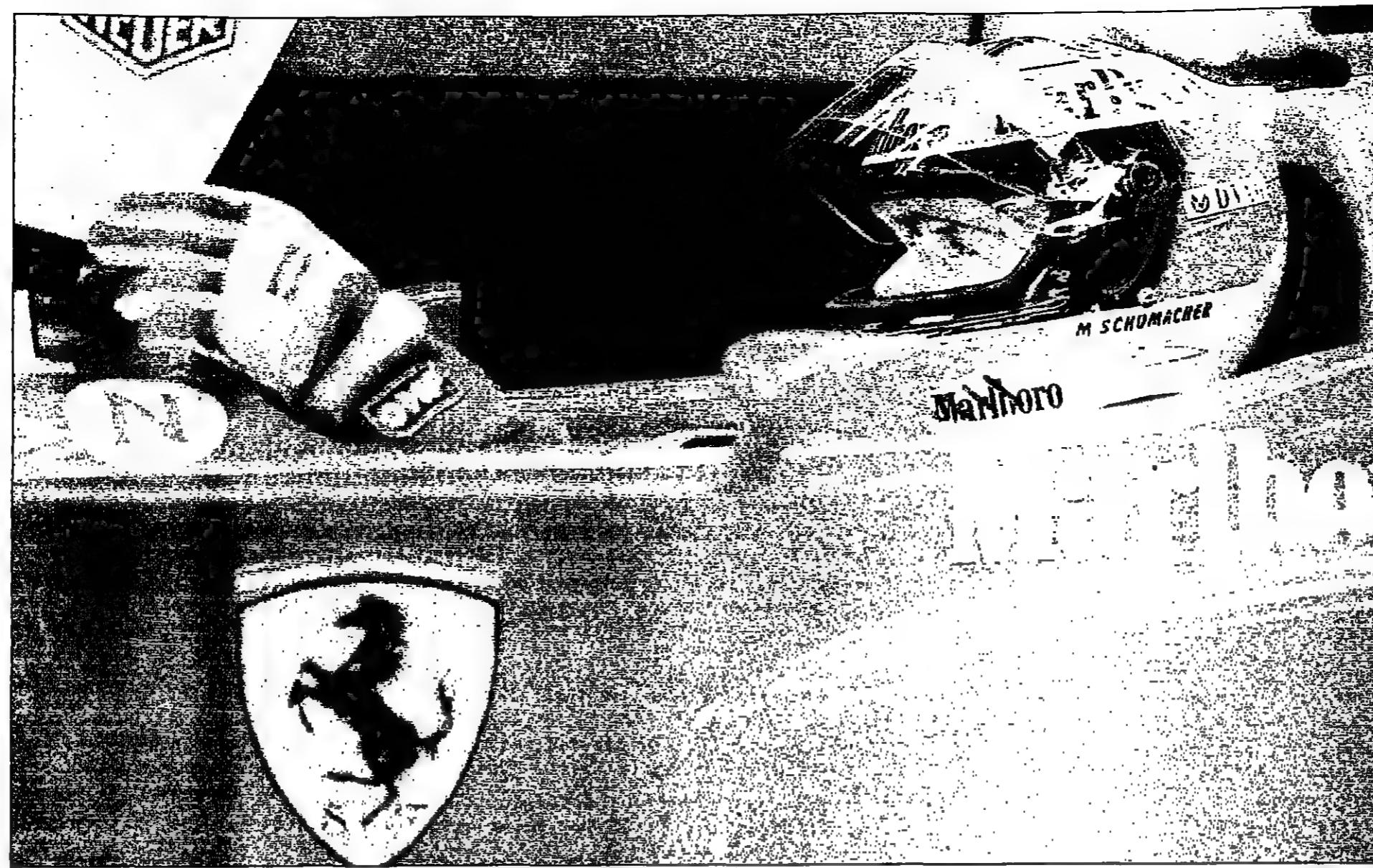
The Autodromo Nazionale, set in the verdant acres of a former royal park in the otherwise inconsequential town of Monza, might be renowned as the cathedral of Formula One, but it has more in common with a circus tent. Emotions are exaggerated. disbelief is suspended. The mundane realities of everyday life cease to matter.

Much, too much, is taken for granted by the *tifosi*, the fanatics who quite literally climb the walls. Popular opinion decrees that nothing less than a Ferrari victory in the Italian Grand Prix tomorrow will do justice to the team's fiftieth anniversary celebrations. Thirteenth place for Schumacher in free practice, 2.3sec off the pace set by Heinz-Harald Frentzen, was regarded as something akin to a disaster.

The romanticism of the Ferrari legend is reflected by the florid language of the banners draped over the wire fence which faces the pit lane. "Ferrari you are a marvellous creature" reads one. "Schummy you are our guardian angel" says another.

A third, directed at his teammate, Eddie Irvine, insists, somewhat incomprehensibly: "You have the eyes of the Irish sky".

The *tifosi* revere risk, worship tradition. Gerhard Berger might be in the twilight of his career with Benetton, but he was canonised the moment his Ferrari won the 1988 Italian Grand Prix, a month after the death of Enzo Ferrari, the team's founder. "Continue to warn us with your smile" implore the terrace scribblers, who are evidently graduates of the Adrian Mole school of



With the Ferrari prancing horse in attendance, Schumacher checks his rivals' practice times at Monza yesterday. "I don't know anything about Ferrari's past," he admitted

creative writing. "Look at the sky. Gerhard, it is the only thing bigger than you."

Yet they are intolerant of failure, scathing when assumptions of superiority are undermined. Influenced by a hysterical press, which distorts rumour into fact on a daily basis, they are the instruments of needless change.

"The pressure is always there, it really is," Irvine said. "As long as you're doing well it's great, but if you're not, well ... His wry grin rendered words meaningless.

Italy instinctively understands the grand gesture, the selfless struggle of the local boy made good. Generations of schoolboys have been weaned on the heroics of Francesco Baracca, the doomed First World War pilot, whose symbol of a black prancing horse which decorated the plane in which he died, was adopted by

Enzo Ferrari as a mark of respect.

The life of Ferrari, the *Comendatore*, has been rewritten as a morality play. He was invalided out of the Somme, where he tended mules, and was refused work. Legend depicts him weeping with shame, lingering in a local park on a bitter winter's

day and promising to better himself. Yet mythology masks reality. He used people shamelessly as he built an empire which often veered on the edge of implosion. He was a manipulative figure, capable of casual cruelty, and took unashamed delight in playing his drivers off against each other. The team are peren-

nial underachievers, habitually governed by committee and plagued by the type of political in-fighting that encourages mediocrity.

Yet Schumacher dares to be different. He refuses to pay homage to history, and is openly dismissive of embroidered tales of *dering-do*. "I don't know anything about

Ferrari's past," he admitted. "Probably I will understand much more when I am older, once I am out of the business."

The unspoken conclusion, that emotion is excess baggage, may verge on heresy but it is the key to his success.

Pressure comes in different forms. Damon Hill's sixteenth place suggested he was diverted by the prospect of completing a move to the Prost team. Schumacher, by contrast, was visibly at ease with the responsibility of protecting his championship lead.

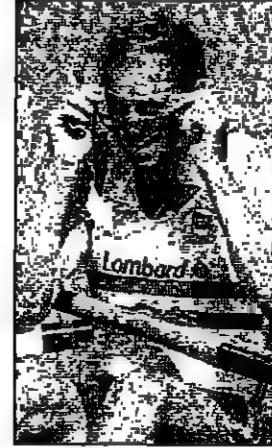
Should he engineer Ferrari's first world title since Jody Scheckter won in 1979, he will have broken the mould. The old ways, of bluff and bluster and divide and rule, will be forever tainted. It will be a long-awaited success for multinationals.

Schumacher embodies Teutonic efficiency. Jean Todt, the team manager, employs Gallic cunning; and Ross Brawn, the technical director, represents the analytical traditions of the British motor racing industry. The Italian charm, and the cash, is supplied by Luca di Montezemolo, the chairman, who returned to Ferrari after organising the 1990 World Cup.

"It could be that the sport is

on the cusp of another period of Ferrari domination," Scheckter says. "Montezemolo made the money available for it to happen. Todt put the infrastructure there, and Schumacher has put it all together. This year could be just the start."

Such statements stimulate a dangerous sense of anticipation in the makeshift campsite which scars the park. The *tifosi* are impatient, impulsive. They demand nothing but the best. Nothing but victory in the only race that really matters.



Redgrave: in command

EQUESTRIANISM

O'Connor makes light work of testing dressage

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

DAVID O'CONNOR, a member of the United States silver medal-winning team at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, took the lead at the three-quarters stage of the dressage phase of The Blenheim Vauxhall Monterrey International Horse Trials yesterday after a superb test on Joseph Zada's 11-year-old gelding, Lightfoot.

The 35-year-old Virginian, who won at Badminton in May on Custom Made, has a 2.4-point lead, ahead of Mark Todd, the dual Olympic champion from New Zealand, on Word for Word. Katie Meacham, the overnight leader, had dropped to third place with Owl Creek.

Lightfoot, on which O'Connor was in the lead at Lexington earlier this year until he incurred ten penalty points in the final showjumping phase — allowing his wife, Karen, to win on Worth the Trust — was one of three rides that the American had available for the Open European championships, which start on Thursday at Burghley.

Having plumped for Custom Made for the championships, with Giltedge, the horse on which he gained his Olympic medal, as his reserve horse, O'Connor decided to bring Lightfoot to Blenheim. Despite a hazardous start to his international career — the horse was run over by ambulance on the cross-country course at the Boekelo event in Holland two years ago — he has become one of the most reliable performers.

Having underlined his form with a fine performance in finishing fourth at the Scottish championships at

GOLF: THREAT OF LEGAL ACTION BY MARTIN AND CONTROVERSY OVER GREENS SOURS ATMOSPHERE

Long, hard European season ends in acrimony

JOHN HOPKINS



on the dog days of a golfing summer

The end of summer has been a difficult time for the PGA European Tour these past few years. With the row this week between Miguel Angel Martin and the Ryder Cup committee overshadowing the deplorable state of the greens here in Crans, where the European Masters is taking place, this summer has been no different.

In 1994, Nick Faldo announced that he was leaving his home on the continent to compete more in the United States. He was going, he said, because of the uneven quality of the courses in Europe. He was also unhappy about the putting surfaces on many of the greens.

The autumn of 1995 was marked by José María Olazábal's withdrawal from competitive play with a foot injury that was later diagnosed as a hernia on the base of his spine. Two years ago, almost to the week, Olazábal withdrew from the Ryder Cup team saying he was not fit enough to play 36 holes in a day.

At the end of August and the beginning of September 1996 the professionals who competed in the One 2 One British Masters at Collingtree were presented with greens of poor quality that looked blue. Once again there was an outcry and Ian Stark, a leading member of the squad for the championships next week, who was fifth on The Moose. After two falls in recent weeks, the selectors will be anxiously watching Stark's performance over the 28-hole course tomorrow.

However, the course, designed by Mike Etherington-Smith, who will design the Olympic course at Sydney in 2000, has taken Todd by surprise. "I particularly brought this horse to Blenheim because he's very accurate and I thought that the course would be similar to last year," he said. "Now I find it's much more of a straightforward, galloping course. I just hope it suits him."

Other good news yesterday came from Owen Moore, of Great Britain, on Prime Contender, who was fourth, and Ian Stark, a leading member of the squad for the championships next week, who was fifth on The Moose. After two falls in recent weeks, the selectors will be anxiously watching Stark's performance over the 28-hole course tomorrow.

Whatever the system is now it is not working," Faldo said. "We have got to review the system. We said this last year. I would like to think they would do something about it. Ken [Schofield] has done

a great job increasing the money but we want to play on better, tougher courses."

As if this was not enough for Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, and John Paramor, the director of this tournament, there was also the threat hanging over the Ryder Cup committee, of which Schofield is an ex-officio member, posed by Martin's threatened legal action.

Martin, who was dismissed

from the Europe Ryder Cup team, is trying to be reinstated and there is even hyperbolic

talk of an injunction to stop the competition from going ahead.

Yesterday was the day when Martin was due to test his injured wrist with some light chipping practice. He has entered the British Masters tournament the week after next and he is clearly beligerent.

Schofield, though, is relaxed. The Ryder Cup committee's lawyers say that there is little chance of such an injunction being successful. It is more likely, Schofield said,

Montgomerie adds walkout threat to course attack

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLIN MONTGOMERIE is not the most patient of men at the best of times, but the state of the course at Crans-sur-Sierre is testing his patience to the limit. After a round of 72, one over par, that left him languishing eight strokes behind the leader of the Canon European Masters — another Scot, Scott Henderson — Montgomerie said that he was ready to walk out of the tournament.

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that compensation will have to be paid for loss of income to Martin.

"We've got to move on," Schofield said. "We have got to have the captain and his men in position at Valderrama about 6pm in two Mondays' time. We cannot delay any further."

Hardly were those words out of his mouth than there came news of an incident between two caddies on Thursday night that ended with a fight and a stabbing.

As a result one ended in hospital, the other in court and was being held in custody. Both will be banned from the tour. The dog days of summer, indeed.

Montgomerie said dismissively.

His disgust at the course in Switzerland is shared, to a greater or lesser degree, by all the players taking part in the event, but while Nick Faldo had called the greens the worst he had ever seen, he was much happier yesterday after adding a 65 to his opening 66.

On 11 under par, he trailed Henderson by only three shots and said: "Winning here would be a nice little boost before we get ready for the Ryder Cup. I'm a little surprised to be 11 under, because the ball is jumping all over the place."

Henderson, from Aberdeen, who made it through the

qualifying school at the fifth attempt last year, added a 66 to his first round 62 for a 14-under-par total of 128 that was only two shots outside the tour record for this stage of a tournament.

"I'm enjoying seeing my name up at the top of the leaderboard," he said. "I wish it was there more often."

"I know everybody is bitching about the greens, but there's no point losing it there. Nobody's going to go through the week without missing from a foot."

Henderson did miss from 18 inches at the 5th yesterday, but that was more than made up for by his six birdies, two of them on the temporary greens being used at the 6th and 8th. Faldo birdied both of those holes, too.

Serviano Ballesteros was among the late starters and he said that he had not been able to get to sleep until 2.30am after a succession of phone calls asking him about the expulsion of his compatriot, Miguel Angel Martin, from his Ryder Cup side. "This is making me an old man," Ballesteros, 40, said.

Trish Johnson, the holder, closed on the lead with a second round of 66 in the French Women's Open at Paris International yesterday. The round left the Briton at one under par on 143, just one stroke behind Karen Lunn, of Australia, who added a 70 to her opening round of 72.

Johnson and Lunn were in the same threesome, starting on the 10th tee. Johnson overtook the Australian when she hit three birdies in a row from the 2nd hole, but pulled her seven iron into the water for a double-bogey five at the short 6th.

ROWING

Redgrave ready to augment gold tally

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT
IN AIGUEBELETTE

STEVE REDGRAVE will, as always, be "calling the shots" to his crew mates in the British coxless four when he goes for his seventh world championship gold medal today. The crew are overwhelming favourites and did not extend themselves when winning their heat and semi-final.

Their coach, Jürgen Gröbler, caused raised eyebrows when he mentioned 5min 43sec as a target time. Redgrave said: "We have reached most of his targets in the past."

British rowing, generally, has more than reached its target, with 13 of the 19-boat team in finals this weekend — a result, most admit, of the £1.8 million lottery grant as well as dedication and natural ability.

Tim Foster, No 3 in the coxless four, said yesterday:

"This is the first time I will leave a world championship without wondering how to pay for it."

Miriam Batten, who with Gillian Lindsay lines up in the women's doubles final, won Britain's first heavyweight women's world medal, in 1991, but was going to retire after the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Financial help and the arrival of Mike Spracklen as coach changed her mind and the duo have realistic medal hopes, although Germany are the favourites.

Two other British fours, apart from the Redgrave crew, are medal possibilities. The men's coxed four appear capable of bronze. An entry of six crews in the women's coxless fours led to a straight final today, but the British crew, winners and course record-holders in Lucerne, have been kept busy since they are also in the women's eights final tomorrow.

Although it is difficult to visualise any gold medals apart from the men's



Redgrave: in command

coxless four, the arrival of a series of bronze will depend even more than usual on "getting it right on the day".

Many British qualifiers have done that already this week. All three eights have excelled, and the lightweight men, in particular, are great scrapers. Sean Bowden, the chief lightweight coach, said: "I wouldn't like to race them."

The men's heavyweight eight has kept pressure on all their older opponents and the women, untrained before last Monday, have been a revelation, backing up the prediction of David Tanner, the team manager, that they would prove "faster than calm reason suggests".

Guillain Batten, the sculler who was fifth in Atlanta, lines up adjacent to the Olympic champion, Ekaterina Khodotovitch, from Belarus, today. "I have more consistency and there are more people around my speed this year," she said. "Being next to the Olympic champion could help her."

Greg Searle's appearance in the men's final is more than ever he had hoped for in his first year of sculling. The draw places him next to another converted rower, James Kavanagh, of the United States, who was conquered by Searle in the Diamond Sculls at Henley. James Hall, Britain's lightweight woman, intends to enjoy herself as the underdog. "It is about who has got it mentally right on the day," she said. "There is less pressure on me than the others."

Spin

Sept 6 1997

CRICKET
Durham's
defiance
ends with
Boon

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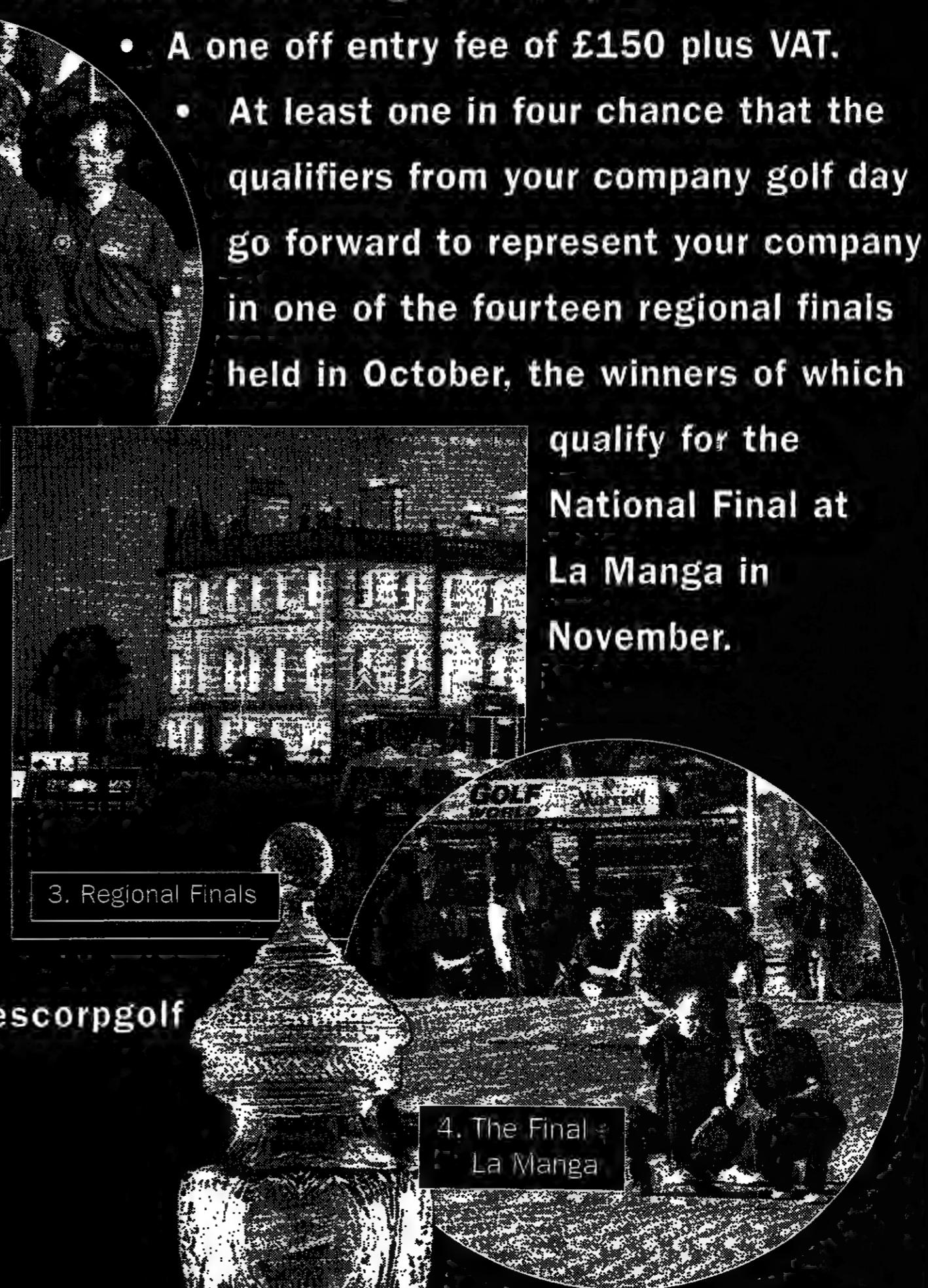
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WATERFORD CRYSTAL

GOLF
WORLD

National Final
shown on
SKY
sports

OTHER
SCREENS

SOFTBALL
CLASSIC
LAWRENCE
BEN

Gloucestershire

TODAY

TONIGHT

CRICKET

Durham's defiance ends with Boon

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

EVEN the batting heroics of David Boon could not prevent Warwickshire's onward march to victory and to Durham station for the 5.02 train to King's Cross for the NatWest Trophy final tomorrow.

They trooped off buoyantly yesterday having captured the final five Durham wickets in 2½ hours to win by an innings and 99 runs, with Doug Brown returning match figures of seven for 67. It completed a win which had seemed inevitable from the first day when Wagh and Knight shared an opening partnership of 206.

At least Boon, the Durham captain, brought a modicum of respectability as they lost at home for the first time in the championship this summer. He scored 81 in five hours before he was caught behind edging Donald to Piper.

Lancashire lost a nail-bitting match with Essex by 26 runs at Old Trafford despite the brave efforts of Hegg, who scored 55 before being bowled by Such, and Green, who was dismissed leg-before on 51.

Grayson took two wickets to end Lancashire's chase as they finished 324 all out.

CHESTER-LE-STREET (final day of four): Warwickshire (260) beat Durham (8) by an innings.

WARRICKSHIRE: First Innings: 412 (M A Knight 124, N V Wright 82; S J E Brown 4 for 65). Second Innings: 118.

DURHAM: First Innings: 118.

Second Innings: 10.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-107, 3-114, 4-129, 5-162, 6-202, 7-220, 8-217, 9-224.

BOWLING: Boon 20-10-35-3; Brown 23-9-34; Wright 8-8-22-2; Green 22-6-39-1; Such 20-3-57-1; Umpires: S Leadbeater and G Sharp.

CRICKET SCORECARD

British Assurance county championship

Lancashire v Essex

OLD TRAFFORD (final day of four): Essex (260) beat Lancashire (4) by 26 runs.

ESSEX: First Innings: 389 (G Law 165, R J Robins 60 not out; G Keedy 4 for 86). Second Innings: 10.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings: 39 for 0 dec.

Second Innings: 10.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-107, 3-114, 4-129, 5-162, 6-202, 7-220, 8-217, 9-224.

BOWLING: Boon 8-1-28-0; Green 8-1-22-1; Such 42-15-103-2; D R Law 4-17-1; Grayson 38-2-145-3.

Umpires: S Leadbeater and R A White.

Kent v Gloucestershire

CANTERBURY (final day of four): Kent (230) beat Gloucestershire (261) by 27 runs.

KENT: First Innings: 305 (P A Webb 77). Second Innings: 432-4 dec (T R Ward 161 not out, A P Webb 54; M Walker 51).

GLoucestershire: First Innings: 258 (R J Dawson 100, R C Green 55, B J Phillips 44).

Second Innings: 10.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-240, 3-249, 4-255, 5-260, 6-213, 7-165, 8-183, 9-206.

BOWLING: Headley 23-3-92-5; Phillips 12-2-1; String 20-14-40-3; Edman 11-2-31-1.

Umpires: V A Holder and A J Jones.

TODAY FOOTBALL

World Cup European qualifying group eight (hosted in Ireland) (at Reykjavik, 3.0) ...

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.0 unless stated

Heineken Cup

Pool A

Lensar v Toulouse (at Donnybrook, 3.0) ...

Pool E

Toulouse v Pau

European Conference

Pool C

Dax v Faru Constanta

Pool D

Nice v Begles

Pool F

Toulon v Bayes

NOTTINGHAM

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

England's Scottish supporter

John Gorman has become much more than Glenn Hoddle's right-hand man at Lancaster Gate

OLIVER HOLT



Then or 15 yards apart, the two men moved forward like synchronised walkers. When they reached the line of yellow plastic markers spread out across the pitch at Bisham Abbey, Glenn Hoddle and John Gorman stopped at exactly the same moment, unaware the other was doing the same. Each had a football tucked under his right arm as he watched. Each knew how the other felt about it. Because he felt the same.

When the play switched direction, Hoddle stayed where he was, pondering, shouting out the odd snippet of advice, but Gorman set off, a short, squat, barrel of energy pounding towards the penalty area. A shot came in from the right flank, beat Nigel Martyn and cannoned off the far post and out to safety. "Super Gary Neville," Gorman sang out, as if it were the first line of a crowd's chant, before trotting back to the centre circle to converge with Hoddle.

They make a good team, these two, friends leading England forward to their World Cup qualifying tie against Moldova at Wembley next Wednesday amid a mood of renewed optimism about the state of the national team. Hoddle takes most of the plaudits, of course, and the brickbats, too, but Gorman is the support he could not do without.

He has been through thick and thin with Hoddle since the day they met, when the England coach was a callow 19-year-old at Tottenham Hotspur. Later, Gorman helped him through the knee injury that threatened his playing career, backed him up when he cut his managerial teeth at Swindon Town and stood at his right hand when he was named as successor to Terry Venables.

"We have got a relationship that is more like brothers than anything else," Hoddle said yesterday. "We are very close on most things. It is almost as if he knows what I am thinking and I know what he is thinking. It is uncanny. When you have a managerial partnership, you need someone who is on the same wavelength as you



Football association: Gorman, a Scot, was the first selection that Hoddle made when he was appointed coach to the England team, renewing a managerial partnership forged at Swindon Town

and someone you can trust. With John, I have got that and I have got someone who is a first-class coach into the bargain.

"The first time we met, we just got on like a house on fire. You know what it's like when you gel with somebody. We complement each other with our characters, and his enthusiasm for the game and for the players is there for everyone to see. If you ask any of the players, that is what they really admire in him. As soon as I got the England job he was always going to be my choice. There was no one else."

Gorman, 48, a Scot born in West Lothian, is good at enthusiastic encouragement, at making others feel good, making them confident. It is his force, his gift. It courses through him. It defines his character. It starts with a crushing handshake that always outlasts the grip of his greater and extends through a purposeful, dogged gait to a steady stream of constructive advice and avuncular camaraderie. He is one of football's decent men, honesty personified, an oasis of sincerity in an increasingly cynical game.

Now, even the initial doubts that some

seemed to harbour about the worth of his role have disappeared, and Gorman has won the respect he deserves. At Bisham yesterday, David Batty was the latest to say that the atmosphere in the England squad was the best he had ever known, and for that he took care to give both Hoddle and Gorman the credit.

Some of that respect stems from the fact that his idea of assisting Hoddle is a world away from the way in which Phil Neal pandered to Graham Taylor during his time in charge. His attitude is a refreshing change from the dogged adherence to the role of yes-man that Neal adopted. Gorman has somehow managed to combine the roles of being fiercely loyal to Hoddle and arguing – relentlessly if need be – with him over some of his ideas.

Gorman said: "My main priority is to assist Glenn in whatever way I can. I try to think of things before he thinks of them and implant them in his mind. He always discusses everything before a decision is made and it helps to disagree, to throw

things out at each other. I tend to dig at him and keep putting my own point of view and he's always willing to listen before he makes up his mind."

"When I first got the job, I was a bit perturbed because I could see people looking at me in training with a sort of quizzical look on their faces, thinking 'what has he done to deserve to be Glenn's No 2, working with these big names?'

"There were even some who thought I must be a born-again Christian, but in fact I'm a practising Catholic. The funny thing is that even Glenn is not a born-again Christian. He's just a Christian and that has never been a factor. He has become spiritually minded and maybe he would like me to be like that, but he never shoves it down my throat. He knows I'm Christian in the way I think about people and help people, and that is part of my job."

"If I was not doing a good job, then believe me, he would not have me. People used to say I was only there because I am his mate, but that's not true, either. I have proved what I can do in the time I have

been involved in the England set-up and now that the results are coming the respect is coming with it."

In fact, Gorman is eminently qualified for his role. He has come up the hard way, shirking nothing, serving a solid managerial apprenticeship at football outposts such as Gillingham and Leyton Orient. His playing career was varied, too, starting at Celtic, moving on to Carlisle United and Spur before a serious knee injury forced him to the United States in 1979 to end his playing days with Tampa Bay Rowdies and Phoenix Inferno.

It was when he was at Orient that he went to visit Hoddle in Monaco as he tried to recover from a knee injury of his own. Hoddle began to think about coaching, too, while Gorman was there, and when he was appointed manager of Swindon, he took Gorman with him as his assistant.

When Hoddle moved on to Chelsea, Gorman took on the Herculean task of trying to keep Swindon in the Premiership, and even though he lost the battle,

he earned widespread admiration for the way he stuck steadfastly to his principles of playing neat, passing football.

"Being the manager, the No 1 at Swindon, helped me to find out a great deal about myself," Gorman said. "After being my own boss and realising that I needed a good assistant, I know I make a good assistant myself. I feel completely at ease being a No 2, even though my destiny is linked to someone else's."

Some people, mostly people in Scotland, have asked why I am doing this job and when I am coming back to Scotland, but they never said that when I was at Gillingham and Orient. I have lived most of my working life in England and I hate that kind of bigotry. The players have a bit of a laugh sometimes and call me 'Jock' or 'sweaty socks', but the people here have accepted me very well and I have surprised myself sometimes with how passionate I have become. I feel so proud when we beat Poland in May. I could not have been prouder if I had been born in the Home Counties."

Hoddle ponders over captain Gascoigne

BY MATT DICKINSON



two fractured ribs, Hoddle's weekend deliberations over the captaincy are unlikely to involve anyone other than Southgate and Seaman.

Seaman, for his greater experience and stature, would be many people's selection, although his position as goalkeeper is likely to count against him. Southgate showed commendable resilience in the way that he coped with the ignominy of his missed penalty in the Euro 96 semi-final against Germany, and he would also be a popular choice.

Against Moldova, bottom of group two and without a point in five games, it should not matter too much even if Hoddle himself was to conduct the pre-match formalities, rather than hand that task to Seaman, the Arsenal goalkeeper, who was appointed MBE after his gallant performances in Euro 96, or Southgate, the calm Aston Villa defender.

It is irrelevant whether England beat Moldova by one or seven goals, and while Hoddle, predictably, played up the opposition's threat, even with Sheringham's unfortunate absence, the fact remains that his team should be superior enough to make the captain's job a formality.

However, do not rule out Gascoigne completely. When he appointed Alan Shearer at the start of his reign, Hoddle stressed that he prefers his captains to be great players who strike fear into opponents, rather than necessarily great leaders of men, citing Maradona as an example.

The days of Gascoigne claiming greatness appear long gone, but England supporters will nonetheless await Hoddle's decision with understandable concern.

He has had a few ups and downs, many injuries to overcome, and that takes a lot of character. There is no one point when the penny drops, but he is involved in that process. He is settling down and I have seen that maturity around the place, definitely. He is understanding the game more as well. At that age you

start reading things and understanding things you didn't at 22 and slowly but surely it comes."

We have heard it all before, of course – the fresh starts, the new resolutions – but for all those optimistic words, the prospect of handing the cap-

tain's armband to Gascoigne on a night when England, particularly after Rio Ferdinand's conviction for drink-driving, must be seen to be perfect ambassadors, clearly does not rest easy with Hoddle.

"Captain? If you look down

the caps, Paul has the experience," he said. "It possibly could do him good. I did it with Dennis Wise to a certain degree at Chelsea and it was good for him."

"But I have to look at the whole situation. It's a very important World Cup game,

Arsenal try for new ro

On the move

Stan Collymore

thought the

simply better

complexes

the



MOTOR RACING 42

Schumacher aims to ride over wave of emotion

SPORT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1997

CRICKET 45

Irani holds key to turn Lord's final Essex's way

Briton confident of sustaining progress in meeting of unseeded semi-finalists

Rusedski to make right impression

FROM DAVID POWELL IN NEW YORK

ONE is a former doubles world champion who has finally gained an identity in singles. The other is Canadian-born with a British makeover. They meet here at Flushing Meadows today, each seeking to become only the second unseeded men's singles finalist at the US Open for 26 years. Will it be Jonas Bjorkman or Greg Rusedski?

Bjorkman can slip into Rory Bremner mode at the drop of a set, so easily do impressions of the tennis stars come to him. "He can do everyone, he's brilliant," Rusedski said. But, when the time comes to be serious, it is the Andre Agassi in Bjorkman that Rusedski wishes not to surface.

"We used to look at Andre as the best returner of serve, but Jonas is up in that class now," Rusedski said. According to John McEnroe, the Swede's backhand return is "a thing of absolute beauty".

Sometimes on court, though, Bjorkman gives his

Scott Draper, Bjorkman's fourth-round victim and the only man to take a set from him here. "He can take the ball early, come to the net, and he is very athletic," Draper said. "But, if you keep him there long enough, he is vulnerable."

No more vulnerable, though, than Rusedski is to daily asides here that he is not truly British. If the accent comes out wrong, the words come out right. Whether or not he becomes the first British player since Fred Perry in 1936 to win a grand-slam singles title, one thing is certain: Bournemouth, here he comes.

"Whatever happens, I have made a commitment to play in Bournemouth next week," Rusedski said. "We do not have many tournaments at home." At home, note. "I do not want to let down the public who bought tickets and come. It is very important to support your home tournaments."

Take that, Tim Henman, whose preference is for Tashkent.

"I have a British passport, a British girlfriend and I have lived in Britain for seven years," Rusedski said to American journalists unconvinced by the GB after his name. It was no different, for so long, in Britain. Teacher tells of how, at the Nottingham tournament three months ago, Rusedski walked into the players' lounge to find, on the bulletin board, "50 to 100 articles on Tim and nothing about Greg". Teacher said that it made his player depressed.

"That was a tough day for him," Teacher added. "He thought: 'I am not playing bad tennis. I should get some publicity.' But he ended up winning the tournament, so he got some. He feels a part of Great Britain, he really does."

"I receive letters of encouragement all the time," Rusedski said. They [British tennis supporters] treat Tim and I, I think, as equals." Only now, Rusedski is first among equals. If he is, he, Henman, who will be the first British man for 20 years to take his racket to a grand-slam singles semi-final.

"Greg is polite and pleasant," Teacher said. "It is a friendly rivalry he has with Tim. If he sees Tim do well, he thinks: 'Gee, if I can work a little bit harder, I will get what Tim is getting.'"

Rusedski had better skip over that, and instead listen to



Rusedski has the world at his feet as he takes time out before his US Open semi-final against Bjorkman at Flushing Meadows today. Photograph: Roger Parker



impression of a rookie professional. "I have seen him fail sometimes when he should win," Teacher said. Rusedski's coach, said. Such as at Wimbledon last year, when he lost to Luke Milligan, or this year, when he lost to another Briton, Chris Wilkinson.

However, for the past fortnight, Bjorkman has posed problems for everyone who has fallen into his path in the draw. They included Gustavo Kuerten, the No 9 seed from Brazil, who won the French Open in June, knocking the Swede out along the way. Kuerten, like Bjorkman now, was unseeded in Paris. What kind of omen is this?

Rusedski had better skip over that, and instead listen to

Rusedski has had what he described as "a raspiness" in his throat, but he has been assured by a doctor that it is not an infection. His confidence, as the only player not to have dropped a set, remains high.

His preference would have been to be the first semi-final on, given that the final is tomorrow and the extra few hours' rest could make a difference. Despite Teacher's concern that his player may find it emotionally wearing, Rusedski said that he intended to watch television coverage of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Today is Rusedski's 24th birthday and there are no prizes for guessing the present he wants. It will not come gift-wrapped, though, for Bjorkman is ranked No 17 in the world, three places higher than Rusedski. He is a former doubles world champion, has won ten Davis Cup doubles rubbers and has reached the doubles final here. However, in 17 grand-slam singles events, this is the first time that he has reached the semi-finals.

In the first semi-final, Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, from the United States, plays Patrick Rafter, the No 13 seed, from Australia. So, if Rusedski progresses, there is the prospect of playing an Australian in the final. Who in Britain would not be shouting for Rusedski then?

Since his quarter-final,

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Chang, having rescued victory from near defeat against Cedric Pioline, of France, in the fourth round, was beginning to look like a potential

comeback victim when Rios recovered from two sets down. However, Chang, from the United States, finally repelled his challenger 7-5, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

When the tournament began, Chang was priced as 8-1 second favourite behind Pete Sampras, whose odds of 5-2 on to win a third successive title did not impress Petr Korda, of the Czech Republic, who eliminated him in the fourth round. Korda was trailing Jonas Bjorkman, from Sweden, in their quarter-final on Thursday night.

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A semi-final between

Bjorkman and Greg Rusedski, of Britain, means that Chang would face an unseeded opponent in the final tomorrow if he can overcome Patrick Rafter, of Australia, today. In 1989, Chang became the youngest men's French Open and grand-slam champion at 17 years and three months. This is his thirteenth grand-slam tournament since. The pursuit of a second title has been a long, hard road.

Against Pioline, Chang was two sets to one and 5-2 down, but he won 11 of the last 12 games. There was a controversial moment in the match against Rios when the Chilean took a 5-2 lead in the third set, was pegged back to 5-4, but then earned a set point on the American's service.

Chang's service was clearly out but he was awarded the point against an opponent who, in their four previous matches, had not won a set.

Rios dropped his racket to the floor in disgust at the call but regained his composure to win the second set point.

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FEATURE



Ten years on — the lessons of the Great Storm

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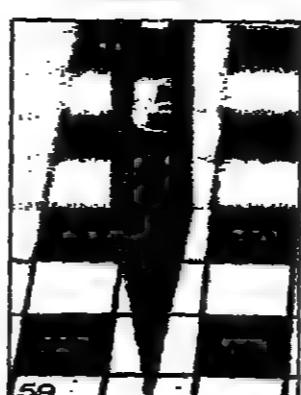
SHOPPING



Nighties that promise a good night

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COMIC



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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1997

THE TIMES WEEKEND

As her family home comes up for sale, Diana Mosley recalls her childhood there with the 'hons and rebels'



The Mitford "hons" of the 1920s and their pets in the annual family photograph with their parents Lord and Lady Redesdale. Back row, left to right: Nancy, Diana, Tom and Pam. Front, left to right: Unity, Decca and Debo

If I have got an "old home", I suppose it is Asthall. Our family lived there from when I was nine until I was 16, all my schoolroom years. No longer in the nursery when we arrived, I was almost grown up when we left.

Asthall is very far from being a stately home. There is no park, no drive, no view in any direction. It is a charming old manor house, with gables and leaded windows, roofed with Cotswold stone tiles, such as you find in most Cotswold villages. It lies between a hill and the churchyard, the ancient church only yards from

the drawing-room windows. It was rather strange that we lived there so long, since in my father's eyes it was a temporary dwelling. During the First World War he had inherited a large house with a good deal of land in Gloucestershire. Even we children knew it was to be sold at the end of the war, as we were too poor to live there. And sold it duly was. My father's

dream was to build his own house, on a hill above Swinbrook in Oxfordshire. The village and land belonged to him, and the coverts and shooting he loved were nearby. Meantime, while the building was going on, we were to live at Asthall, which adjoined his land and was conveniently on the market. Although we were six children, and soon to be

seven, we could perfectly well have squeezed into Asthall for a couple of years. But no sooner were we installed than he began to build at Asthall. He built stables, garages, kennels. He built "cloisters" that joined it to the old house. He put more bedrooms there. He made a great barn in the garden into a library and music room. This large room, furnished with

hundreds of old books, a grand piano and sofas, with high windows looking south and east, was all the world to my brother Tom and me at Asthall. He played all day. Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, and I lay on a sofa, reading and listening. The room was far enough away to disturb nobody. We were allowed to read anything, provided we put the book back where it belonged.

The chief beauty of Asthall was a long, panelled hall with windows on both sides and a fire at each end. We were sheltered from draughts by Chinese screens, black lacquer with enormous white lacquer characters, very old and beautiful. In the dining room were 17th-century Japanese screens depicting eagles and other

birds of prey on palest gold background. These treasures had been brought from the Far East by my grandfather.

The other end of the hall led to my mother's drawing room, with my father's business room beyond. We often sat with him listening to his gramophone.

Our schoolroom was at the bottom of the oak staircase; it faced south, but was always cold. We had an English governess in the term and a French one in the holidays. In the evenings our governess read us one of the Waverley novels, or

Continued on page 2

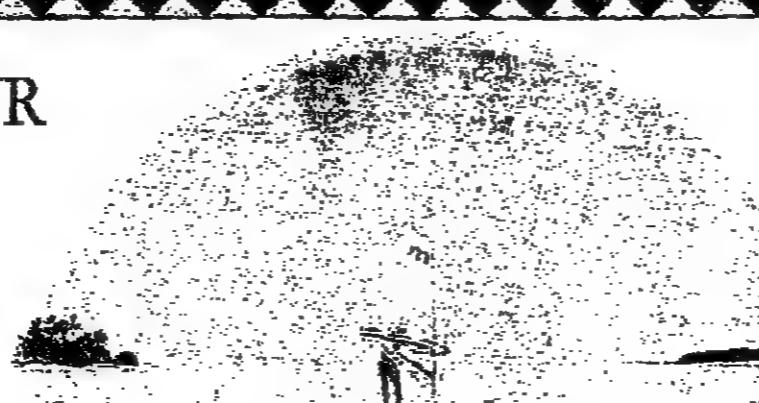
The Mitfords at home

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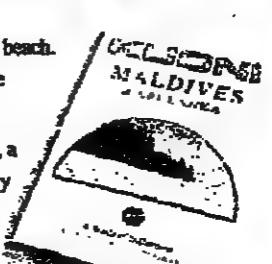
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Unity: a fascist who became friendly with Hitler



Left to right: Nancy immortalised her family childhood in novels; Deborah (Debo) became the Duchess of Devonshire; Jessica (Decca) eloped and ran away to the Spanish Civil War



'The mad, mad Mitfords'

Andrew Yates reports on a family like no other in politics and books

SOPHIA MURPHY, the Duchess of Devonshire's granddaughter, asserts in her book *The Mitford Family Album* that the six Mitford sisters, their one brother Tom, and Lord and Lady Redesdale, known familiarly as Muv and Farve, can claim to be Britain's best known family after the Royal Family.

Their upbringing was unusual. Only Tom received regular education, while his sisters had a variety of governesses, interspersed with an occasional term at school. As a result, she says, their literary careers derived from natural talent and self-education, which perhaps accounts for the originality of their writing.

However, apart from their literary proficiency — Nancy immortalised her family and childhood in her novels *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate* — the Mitfords

are famous for their widely differing political views: Jessica, or Decca, became a communist, running away to the Spanish Civil War with her husband, Esmond Romilly. She later wrote *Hons and Rebels*, a wickedly funny portrait of her aristocratic childhood. Then she upset America with her satirical account of its funeral industry, *The American Way of Death*.

Diana and Unity were both fascists. Diana married Sir Oswald Mosley, founder of the British Union of Fascists, while Unity achieved notoriety by becoming a close friend of Hitler. The right-wing opinions of Diana and Unity and the left-wing views of Jessica became too extreme to be

reconcilable. Jessica wanted a different sort of life from her upbringing and, at the age of 12, opened a "running away" account. As a teenage joke, she had decided that if Diana was to be a fascist, then she would be a communist. To learn more on the subject, she spent some of her running-away money on left-wing literature.

DEBORAH, or Debo, the youngest Mitford sister, was teased by the others for her lack of intellectual pursuits. She married Lord Andrew Cavendish who, in 1950, became the 11th Duke of Devonshire. The least known of the Mitfords are Tom, a barrister who was killed in action, and Pamela, hailed by John Betjeman as "gentle Pamela, most rural of them all".

Much of the fascination of the Mitfords is that their actions when young were considered outrageous and encouraged publicity. Contemporary fuelled public interest: "At Again — the Mad, Mad Mitfords" . . . "The Girl Who Loved Hitler" . . . "Peer's daughter 'elopes to Spain'" . . . "Lady Mosley held by Scotland Yard" . . .

"For so many people from one family to flaunt so flagrantly authority and to act just as they pleased in so many different ways set new precedents," Sophia Murphy says. "Everyone has daydreams but the Mitfords turned them into reality."

• *The Mitford children: Nancy (1904-1973), Pamela (1907-1993), Thomas (1909-1945), Diana (1910-1992), Unity (1914-1981), Jessica (1917-1996), Deborah (1922).*



Diana married the British fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley



Asthall, Oxfordshire, the childhood home of the Mitfords and where "Uncle Matthew" was born

Continued from page 1
Bleak House, or *The Mill on the Floss*. The nursery was upstairs: it was a haven, with our darling Nanny and beloved little sisters. My worst dread was that I might be sent to school, away from ponies, dogs, guinea pigs, above all away from the nursery and its denizens, but I never was.

In the holidays we were supposed to speak French, which resulted in a perhaps not unwelcome silence in the dining room. Visiting children considered us a noisy family, there was no question of being seen and not heard. We argued, teased, screamed with laughter at family jokes, the funniest my father's.

Sometimes gloom and quiet descended for a while, when my father used to tell us he was ruined. We wondered anxiously where the next loaf of bread would come from. He lost a lot of money trying to farm, but during the Asthall years he also made many disastrous investments, generally the result of talking to some brilliantly clever cove at the Marlborough Club, his London resort. Building was his expensive hobby.

"You realise you children will have to earn your own livings don't you?" he would say. "I can't give you anything." This made our blood run cold. We couldn't imagine that anyone would wish to employ us. For one thing, we did everything badly. We rode every day, but we didn't ride well. We played tennis, and went to tennis parties given by children in the neighbourhood, but they played far better than we did. We had music lessons in Oxford, and we went to a dancing class, with mediocre results. Could we even type?

When my father said he could give us nothing, my mother said instead: "Of course not. Girls don't expect it."

It was my mother who made Asthall perfectly lovely inside, she who defended us from my father's vagaries. He usually disliked our friends, but she was welcoming.

On Sundays my father liked us to go with him to matins at Swinbrook, where we preferred evensong at Asthall. Mr Ward, the Asthall vicar, once preached a sermon scolding my father: "People who run shooting with their dogs through God's holy acre," he said crossly. "We went coursing on Sundays and fetched the dogs from the kennels: the churchyard was a short cut." We told my father about the sermon, but he only laughed.

When I was about 14 the organist left the village and Mr Ward asked me to play the organ. It was a very old organ: a village boy pumped the air into it, and if he stopped no



Diana Mosley

My father, like Uncle Matthew, was angry, affectionate, uproarious, by turns'

sound came. I knew the service by heart: the little tunes of hymns and canticles were simple, and I knew just when to give Mr Ward his note and how to play the responses accompanying Mrs Ward's powerful contralto. Occasionally the organ seemed to come alive and emitted squeaks and groans, but I knew it would have to stay quiet when it ran out of air. I used two stops, one for noise, one for pathos.

Nearly 20 years later my sister Nancy wrote her best-selling novels *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*. Her masterpiece was her lifelike portrait of my father as Uncle Matthew. An old refugee from eastern Europe came into Heywood Hill's bookshop where she worked, to congratulate her. "Onkel Mattheu!" he said. "He woz my father!" Rather surprised, she told this to Evelyn Waugh. "Uncle Matthew is everybody's father," was his reply.

My father was at his most Uncle-Mattheu-like at Asthall. Angry, funny, affectionate, furious, uproarious by turns, and always totally unpredictable. At Swinbrook his gaity seemed to diminish, and he became almost, if never quite, grown up.

• *Asthall Manor is for sale through Strutt & Parker, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (01608 650502); asking price, £1.35 million.*

After 73 years, Olive the housemaid returns to Asthall — and checks for dust

Echoes of laughter from the past

It seems as if nothing has changed. The rooms, now nearly empty in readiness for the sale, even have an old-fashioned smell about them, a dry scent, fine wood, old polish, lives lived the way lives used to be. In the kitchen squats a huge black cast-iron range, looking like the grandfather of all Agas. In the reception hall, in a cupboard inside a cupboard, a telephone that looks as if it would not seem unfamiliar to Alexander Graham Bell hides discreetly. The Duchess of Devonshire has explained that her father, Lord Redesdale, hated the telephone: thus this eccentric, closed-off arrangement.

That the house is caught in the past becomes even clearer when walking through it with Olive Hanley. Mrs Hanley, now 90, was a housemaid here from 1921 to 1924, and sometimes cared for the younger Mitford girls — Debo, now the Duchess of Devonshire, Jessica and Unity. "The rooms are just the same," she says, in a wonder of recollection. This is her first sight of the house in 73 years. She runs her finger along the top of the fine stone mantelpiece in the morning room, expressing disapproval of the dust. "I used to whitewash these fireplaces every morning," she says. "His lordship used to say, 'Don't take the ashes away, just put the logs on top.' She cleaned rooms, polished floors ("with beeswax and turpentine — none of this modern stuff I was always on my knees: they were this big," she says, holding her hands in a wide round), watched the children and was paid 28 shillings a month.

Asthall Manor was the home of the Mitfords from 1919 to 1926, and walking through the front door it seems possible to believe that Lord and Lady Redesdale and their seven children had only just left. The house, a 17th-century manor — much altered by Lord Redesdale, although never intended as a permanent home, is set in the quiet Cotswolds and casts its shadow over Nancy Mitford's *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*, and for the older Mitford children (Nancy, Tom, Diana and Pam) it was the home of their childhood.

We climb two long flights of stairs to revisit the attic room, one of seven in a warren at the top of the house, that Mrs Hanley shared with Nelly, the second housemaid (Olive, only 14, was the third). Her sister was a friend of the henhouse-maid (those hens which were the "Hons" of Jessica Mitford's *Hons and Rebels*) and she came by her position. It was one which today might seem idyllic, but for the young Olive it was hard work from morning till night. "We had to be up before everyone else to light the fires," she says — and that included the great range in the kitchen, laboriously ignited with tinder. Olive and Nelly's room had no fire and just one small window that looked out over the garden. "We'd lean out and the boys would throw apples up to us." She presses her face against the clouded glass as if their voices still ring in her ears. She might have been here yesterday. She then points out the cook's room, the parlourmaid's room

and all the other accommodation for the ten servants.

That the grander rooms of the house, the splendid study with its ornate plaster ceiling, the reception hall with its Jacobean paneling, the airy dining room and ballroom, a revelation to her is not an indication of failing memory — merely evidence of the rigidity of servants' lives at the time. "I've seen more of the house today than I did when I was here," says Mrs Hanley, recalling scurrying through the kitchen in summer when the delicious smells of jam-making filled the house. Now the peach trees that filled the jars have grown through the roof of the greenhouse.

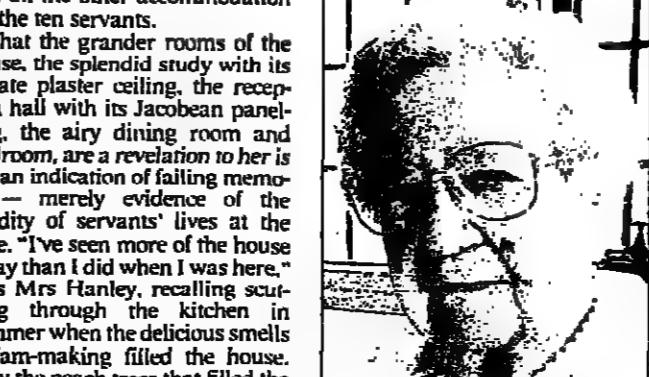
She recalls watching the cook prepare elaborate meals for the "downstairs" household, and seeing them vanish into the dining room, untouched by the help. "It always looked so delicious," she says, a little wistful. What did she get to eat? "Oh, a little bread and cheese, adding, "All the groceries had to be brought by horse and cart from Oxford." Things were not necessarily simpler then.

his family to Swinbrook. It was bought by Mr J.A. Hardcastle, and inherited by his son, who lived here until his death last year.

The younger Mr Hardcastle was apparently quite content with the house just as it was — which is why Mrs Hanley and the Duchess of Devonshire (though she was only six when the family left the house) are able to say that even the paint seems to be the same. The curtains that hang in what was once Lady Redesdale's bedroom — a bright, panelled space with a wide, leaded bow-window — appear to be the ones that she (or rather, her parlourmaid) would have drawn, lending a somewhat Miss Havisham air to the room. When I touched them the cloth turned to dust in my hands.

The laughter of the Mitford girls still seems to echo through Asthall Manor, not just because it has been frozen in time but because, in its Cotswold warmth and grace, it seems a house that would always retain laughter, whoever was the source.

ERICA WAGNER



Reflecting: Mrs Hanley at 90

She has fond memories of all the children — particularly Debo ("She used to slide down the banister of the stairs"); Unity, she recalls, was "a bit of a handful" — and the great Christmas parties at Asthall, to which all the local children were invited.

Lord Redesdale sold Asthall

The Mitford family's history began in the 17th century, with the building of Asthall Manor in Oxfordshire. The family's political influence reached its peak in the early 20th century, with the likes of Nancy Mitford, Diana Mitford, and Unity Mitford becoming household names. Nancy Mitford's novels, *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*, are still popular today. Diana Mitford, the Duchess of Devonshire, was a prominent figure in the 1930s and 1940s, and Unity Mitford was a member of the British Fascist Party. The family's political influence declined in the 1950s and 1960s, but they remain a well-known and controversial part of British history.

Devastatingly, the Mitford family's influence has faded, and they are no longer as well-known as they once were. However, their legacy continues through their books, their political influence, and their impact on British society.

As the tenth anniversary of the Great Storm approaches, Bill Frost reports on its positive legacy

When Mother Nature knows best

While Britain slept on the night of October 15, 1987, the forces of nature mustered in the Bay of Biscay preparing a devastating strike timed for the small hours. The Great Storm took 18 lives, marooned hundreds of communities, brought public transport to a standstill in many places and ran up a bill for damages of close to £800 million.

There was fury at forecasters in general, and the BBC's Michael Fish in particular, for failing to warn the nation to batten down the hatches in readiness for the tempest. Their colleagues in France and Holland had issued "extreme bad weather/hurricane warnings" some hours before the big blow arrived.

In fact, Fish had told viewers on Thursday: "A woman rang and said she heard a hurricane is on the way. Well, there isn't." As the first banting howl of the wind ranted his window in the small hours, he must have realised his error.

Everyone caught in the storm's path will remember exactly where they were and how they trembled during those terrifying hours. Britain had seen nothing like the Great Storm for 300 years.

A decade on, have lessons been learnt the hard way — would Britain find herself ill-prepared once more should the elements declare war? And have the dire predictions of irreparable damage to some of our ancient woodlands and gardens come true?

According to the forecasters, there are now better computers, more observational buoys, increased data from aircraft, improved satellite information and almost double the number of radars.

Our famous gardens, many of which looked as though they had been caught in a heavy artillery bombardment, have been restored. In some cases, conservators and botanists have praised the Great Storm and described it as "a blessing in disguise... a good natural clear-out of the dead wood".

That night of gales, described by the London Weather Centre as "probably among the worst in recorded history", began when gusts up to 110mph roared in from the Atlantic (like an express train) in one weatherman's words to strike the south coast in the early hours.

Drivers spoke of extraordinary escapes as trees came down on roads in the Great Storm's path. Others did not live to tell the tale.

Houses and hotels collapsed, ships were wrecked, railway lines and thousands of roads were blocked by fallen trees, bringing chaos to public transport. There were widespread power cuts and some areas remained without electricity for weeks. Supplies to the South East were shut down to save the National Grid from collapse and prevent permanent damage to equipment as winds and flying debris tripped safety cut-outs.

Among the shipping disasters a diving vessel, Smit Lloyd One, endangered oil rigs in the North Sea after losing power and steering. Meanwhile, gas workers were being winched to safety by helicopters as winds gusted at more than 90mph.

The worst hit areas were the Isle of Wight, where the pier at Shanklin was demolished, and Hampshire. Troops were called in to disentangle power cables that had become wrapped around trees.

The winds cut a swathe of destruction across the country. There was severe flooding caused by 30ft waves in small harbour towns.

With the emergency services stretched beyond their limits, the looters were to move in. Hundreds of shops in Brixton, Islington and Brighton were



A decade on, a carpet of bluebells masks the storm damage of 1987, which uprooted trees and caused devastation. Experts now say the "natural clear-out" was a good thing

plundered. Sevenoaks, in Kent, lost six of the seven trees which gave the town its name and the Tower of London closed for the first time since the dark days of the Blitz.

As dawn came up over the battlefield, the full extent of the disaster became plain and eyewitnesses told of miraculous escapes from the crucibles of the killer wind. Government ministers demanded answers from the weathermen while cowboy glaziers, tree surgeons and roofers roamed in search of victims. There were many.

Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary at the time, described the Great Storm as "the most widespread night of disaster in the South East of England since 1945. "Clearly the Met Office will want to look at their experience, and our experience over the past 24 hours to see if anything can be done to improve their predictions," he said grimly.

Storm damage across the South East was said by farmers to be "much, much worse than anything in living memory". Glasshouses were destroyed in Sussex, and orchards in Kent were "ravaged". Many millions of pounds of damage to crops was suffered by farmers from Kent to Leicestershire. The bill in West Sussex alone, where

devastation centred on concert-



An aerial view of the storm damage in the National Trust's Emmett's Garden in Kent

trated horticultural areas, was estimated by the National Union of Farmers to be more than £20 million. The eventual figure was considerably higher.

Apple growers spoke of "wholesale carnage" as they surveyed scores of acres of trees uprooted by the winds. Many barns, grain stores and livestock units in Sussex, Kent, Bedfordshire and East Anglia were destroyed. At a poultry house near Chelmsford in

Essex, which lost its roof, 17,000 birds were killed or seriously injured that they had to be destroyed.

Thousands of pupils stayed at home as schools across the South closed for the day because of blocked roads and the danger of falling trees.

However, many of the images flashed around the world by television companies and press agencies concentrated on the Great Storm's Blitzkrieg against some of Britain's

best-loved gardens and woodland areas. "England's glory destroyed in one night," cried the front-page headline on *Paris Soir*, one of France's most widely read regional newspapers.

The morning after, Ian Beyer, then the deputy curator of the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew declared that "the landscape would never quite be the same again". Beyer added: "This is the worst day in the history of Kew. It is impossible

to put any kind of financial estimate on the damage literally thousands of trees, many more than 2,000 years old, have been devastated.

The face of the gardens will never be the same again — a third of trees which have stood for hundreds of years will have to come down. All of us are drained, there are not words to describe how we feel about what has happened."

Visitors to Wakehurst, Kew's satellite near East Grinstead in West Sussex, were greeted by an even more dramatic picture of devastation. While a mere 800 or so perished at the Royal Botanic Gardens — some more than two centuries old — between 15,000 and 20,000 trees were lost at Wakehurst.

Ian Beyer said at the time that his "entire career, entire life's work had been destroyed in a single night". Among the celebrity victims of the Great Storm: the Maidenhead Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), native to China and dating back to 1761, lost a large limb. Another original planting, the Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*), had been terminally battered when the Great Storm struck. A 70-tonne crane was hired to lift out the root.

Mark Bridger, now one of the Kew Arboretum managers, remembers the aftermath

of the Great Storm with great clarity. "It was my first year there and I was exhilarated by the sight of so many great trees uprooted. I had never seen so many picked up and tossed down — it was very exciting.

"My older colleagues were devastated though, probably

angered by my excitement. Each tree that fell was like a member of the family."

"The weathermen came in for quite a pasting, even though an earlier warning would not have helped the trees. Had Michael Fish been there, he would not have survived the morning."

However, Mr Bridger believes the Great Storm made "some hard but essential decisions" that horticultural botanists at Kew might have backed away from. "It's an ill wind, you might say, because there had been random planting in the past. Now we have been able to put all the species together as they should have been and have been able to make better use of the space the Great Storm gave us."

"That said, if the same thing happened again without warning from the forecasters, I too would be furious at the loss of my trees, my children. Like my colleagues back in 1987, I would have wanted blood — though there was precious little one could have done, even with a warning."

National Trust properties in Kent and East Sussex devastated by the Great Storm have also benefited from "ill wind".

Hurricane damage is said to have provided a long-term positive legacy. Flora and fauna have flourished in the areas stripped of trees by the gales. Trunks snapped off by the gales provide a habitat for rare toads and tawny owls and wildflowers.

Storm-battered timber is the medium of choice for many craftsmen. Out of devastation they have fashioned furniture and toys. An article in the latest edition of the National Trust magazine says: "Of course, it is upsetting to see storm damage on the scale of '87. It's always sad to lose important landmarks, and we all miss old friends but by and large, the landscapes have been enriched... a good natural clear-out every century or so would seem to be no bad thing."

As for the Met Office, so roundly rebuked ten years ago, are the forecasters completely confident they would not let us go so easily into that darkest of nights again without warning?

Early foul weather warnings are sent across the country within 30 minutes. A recent survey revealed that the Met Office surpassed customer satisfaction targets, with 95 per cent of users satisfied with the service they received.

So far, very good — but is the warning system now failsafe? "Never say never," said a Met Office insider. "I wouldn't put big money not walking up to the aftermath of another Great Storm in my lifetime. That's Mother Nature for you."



Devastation: Lord Sackville in Knole Park after the storm in 1987

LORD SACKVILLE'S GREAT TREE REPLANTING SCHEME

ON A sunny hillside at Knole Park, in Sevenoaks, Kent, the sixth Lord Sackville, 84, is shoulder-deep in undergrowth, hacking out birch scrub. He has been freeing trees for decades, ever since finding a young fir half-strangled by brambles and setting to with the kitchen scissars.

Lord Sackville was warned that it would cost at least £500,000 to replace the 250,000 trees that he lost during the Great Storm of 1987, but says simply: "The trees had to be replaced."

The deer park at Knole, gifted to the Sackvilles in 1566 by Elizabeth I, is being restored with thousands of hardwoods which will not be productive for decades. They represent a dead loss financial terms.

Lord Sackville's immediate decision, while the rest of the country was still considering where to begin, meant that when contractors were

not to be had for love nor money, at Knole the clearers were already at work. Clearing the park took nine months and cost £250,000. Up to 15 men cut and hauled 10,000 tonnes of timber. Beech was shipped to Turkey for furniture making and to Portugal for pallets. Pine went to Scandinavia for pulp and larch to Wales for fencing. Low-grade chestnut went into copper smelting and plans were drawn up for large-scale replanting.

IN 1988, Chancellor Nigel Lawson cancelled Schedule D tax advantages for forest investors, which will not be productive for decades. They represent a dead loss financial terms.

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Ten years on the new trees are barely discernible above the surrounding bracken and birch. Above them stand the isolated ancients which withstood the tempest and punctuating the scene are the gaunt silvery Daleslike trunks of dead trees, home to at least 30 endangered species of beetles.

It just needs another 90 years. And the patience of a lord.

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Junior pupils from Sevenoaks School were enlisted to collect acorns. Thanks to their help, many oak sub-species were grown under glass until the slips, or baby trees, were ready for planting.

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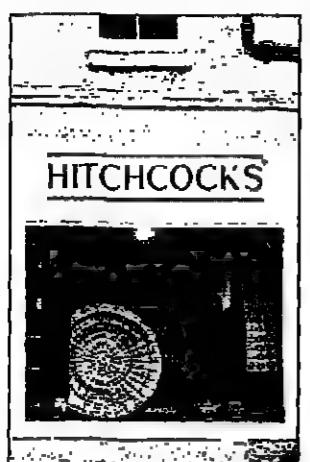
Junior pupils from Sevenoaks School were enlisted to collect acorns. Thanks to their help, many oak sub-species were grown under glass until the slips, or baby trees, were ready for planting.

Michael Cable goes shopping with Bel Mooney, an arts and crafts enthusiast

"Top designers leave me cold"

Bel Mooney is still smarting from some of the media ridicule heaped on her when she joined her teenage daughter, Kitty, and other eco-warriors camping out in protest against the building of the Bath bypass. "Why is it that the witches and bitches who have newspaper columns should choose to do me over so comprehensively for acting in a perfectly reasonable way?" asks Mooney, who spent a week roughing it in a *yurt*, a Mongolian-style tent.

A journalist before going on to become an author and broadcaster, she puts the criticism down to jealousy. "And



my favourite shop

guilt, perhaps, that they themselves would not be prepared to get muddy and dirty or to stand up for something they really believed in."

Mooney and I were browsing in Hitchcocks', a craft gallery in Bath where the four floors of hand-made clothes, knitwear, ceramics, jewellery and automata by British and Irish craft designers reflect the taste and style of this 50-year-old, who laughingly describes herself as "a reformed hippy—but not that reformed."

"The shop is full of extraordinary things that I cover desperately," she says, and reveals that she regularly contrives to send her husband, Jonathan Dimbleby, along when birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas approach, having primed the owner, Fleur Hitchcock as to which item she should suggest to him as the perfect present for his wife.

A Gillian Stein brooch in the shape of a bronze tree with a single pearl hanging like an apple from a branch, which she is wearing on her lapel, was one wedding anniversary result of this system. A Sarah Burner hand-knitted cardigan decorated with moons and stars arrived for Easter. At present she has her eyes on a Regency-style "Mr Darcy" coat in wool, velvet and silk by



Bel Mooney, with Fleur Hitchcock, prefers the work of "crafts people who are creating wonderfully individual hand-made things in natural materials"

Sally Muir, the daughter of Frank Muir and wife of Mooney's journalist colleague Geoffrey Wheatcroft.

"The likes of Calvin Klein, Versace and Prada leave me completely cold," she says. "But here you're talking about a different kind of designer: artist and crafts people who are creating wonderfully indi-

vidual hand-made things in natural materials."

Hitchcocks' is among a growing number of Craft Council-listed shops and galleries trying to dispel the image of what is wittily referred to as the "corn dollies and pot pourri" of arts and crafts. There is a lot of sophisticated work being done

by a growing number of hugely talented British, Scottish and Irish designers," says Fleur Hitchcock, whose mother opened the first shop in Winchester in 1976 before moving to larger premises in Alresford, Hampshire, four years later. The Bath shop and gallery followed in 1986, and Mooney's attention was soon

drawn to the unusual window displays.

Married 29 years, Mooney and Dimbleby have an 18-acre farm run on organic lines on historic Lansdowne Hill, two miles outside the city. "To me it is the perfect city," says Mooney, who is a vice-president of the Bath Festivals Trust. "The only problem is

the traffic and the parking."

Which brings us back to motorway protests. "This is something we have to take seriously and we have to make people think about it," she insists. "I'm very proud of what I did."

• Hitchcocks, 10 Chapel Row, Bath, BA1 1HN. Tel 0125 330646. Open Mon-Sat, 10-1-30.

the instructions. "Red means STOP to her, yet provides light for him — so no more midnight mistakes."

The product is "motion-activated", an unfortunate term in this context, with an infrared sensor to turn on the light as you approach. It is battery-operated and, after you have paid your visit, it clicks off automatically.

The nightlight sticks to the lavatory lid with a large self-adhesive disc. If you have positioned it correctly, it should stick

uncomfortably into the small of your back when you lean back.

Even with guiding lights you still need your wits about you. The instructions warn: "Always view the seat position before sitting."

You might also find a Rio

Tens Pain Relief System in a bathroom first-aid kit, but it is as comforting as the electric chair. Here "ding-free pain relief" is dispensed with a palm-size unit generating electrical pulses to react with the nervous system, creating either tingling sensations or, on full power, a very nasty shock.

I found no pain-relieving benefits, although every time I pass the fridge the light goes on.

TIM WAPSHOTT

• His 'n' Her Nightlight, £24.95 plus p&p, from the Gadget Shop (01482 860360). Rio Tens Pain Relief System, £49.95 plus p&p, from Innovations (0990 807060).

Take a shine to industry's cast-offs

METAL PRODUCTS

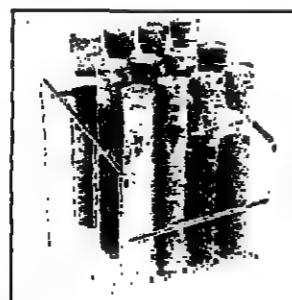
IF THE green movement has its way in the next millennium, there will be no rubbish: just objects that haven't been used yet. And, if the design gurus get their message across, our homes will be scattered with shiny metallic objects picked out of old warehouses, scrapyards, chandlers, office suppliers, hospitals and laboratories. Industrial design has moved away from factory to home.

The vogue for large loft spaces has increased demand for stylish, clean-cut industrial pieces that are minimal and high-tech, yet classy.

"Minimal", "recycled" and "industrial" are all buzz words for the modern urban dweller with a conscience, an imagination and an eye for contemporary design. These homeowners are forever on the lookout for glittering objects that are useful and ecologically friendly, as well as being beautifully designed and inexpensive. And there are now scores of designers aiding that transformation.

Deborah Thomas, for example, uses broken glass and metal to create massive fairytale chandeliers. "I like the visual splendour arising from a material that has lost its use, that would normally be thrown out," she says. "It's the most unlikely materials that I like — things that people are normally wary of."

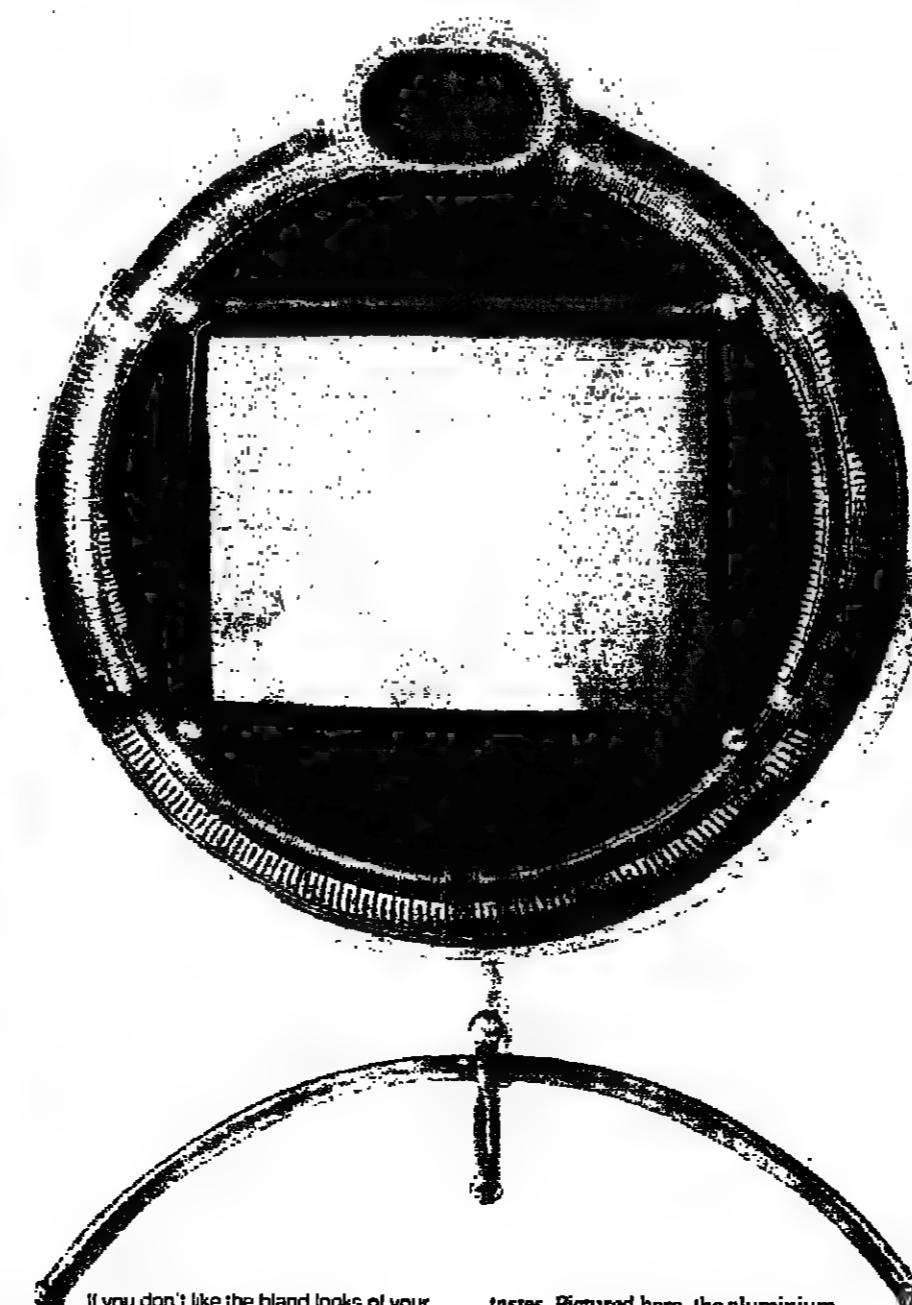
Neil Austin, too, favours



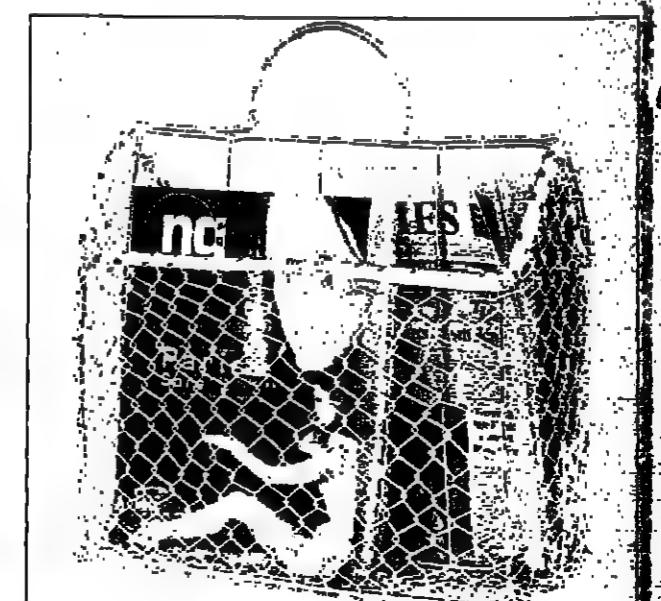
Anna Albright's science-lab style chrome tabletop space rack with 12 stoppered test tubes sold filled with various herbs £39, or empty to contain your own tongue-curing concoctions £29.75 John Lewis (0171-629 7711)



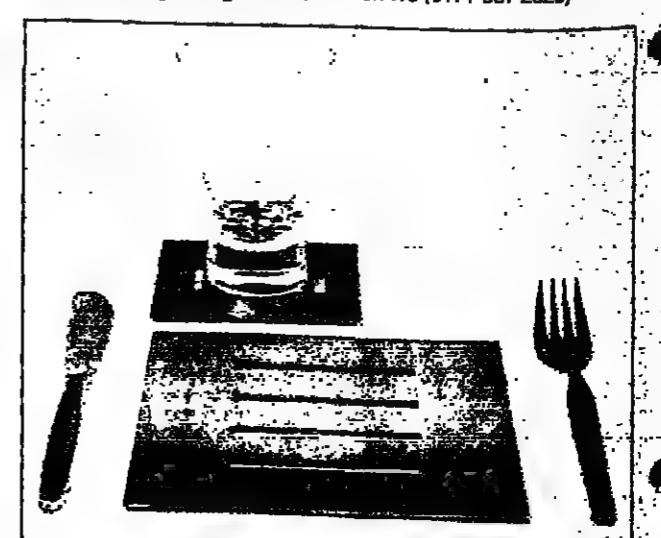
Jam, a design group which specialises in recycling, has created a range of unusual furniture which includes this Robostacker storage unit made from imperfect washing-machine drums. £350 (stocks 0171-276 5557)



If you don't like the bland looks of your television set casing, or those ghastly "hide it" wooden cupboards, why not splash out on innovative housing made from an old jet aircraft engine. Designer Paul Badham converts engines into television housing for those with eclectic



Proving that there's always something enticingly new in the shops: a whole range of containers is being made in woven aluminium. This trendy magazine basket costs £14.95 from The Source, 26-40 Kensington High Street, London W8 (0171-937 2626)



Why not give those decorative floral tablemats a rest and try the ultimate new-age heat and moisture protectors. Though perhaps not as easy on the eye at first, these non-scratch, burnish stainless steel tablemats (£9.50) and coasters (£2.95) will certainly be the talk of the table. From Heals, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666)

All dressed up for good night

White rose face brush £3.95, Forwell £1.95

Checked silk robe £12.95

At the end of the day, it's what you wear in bed at night that really counts, says Heath Brown

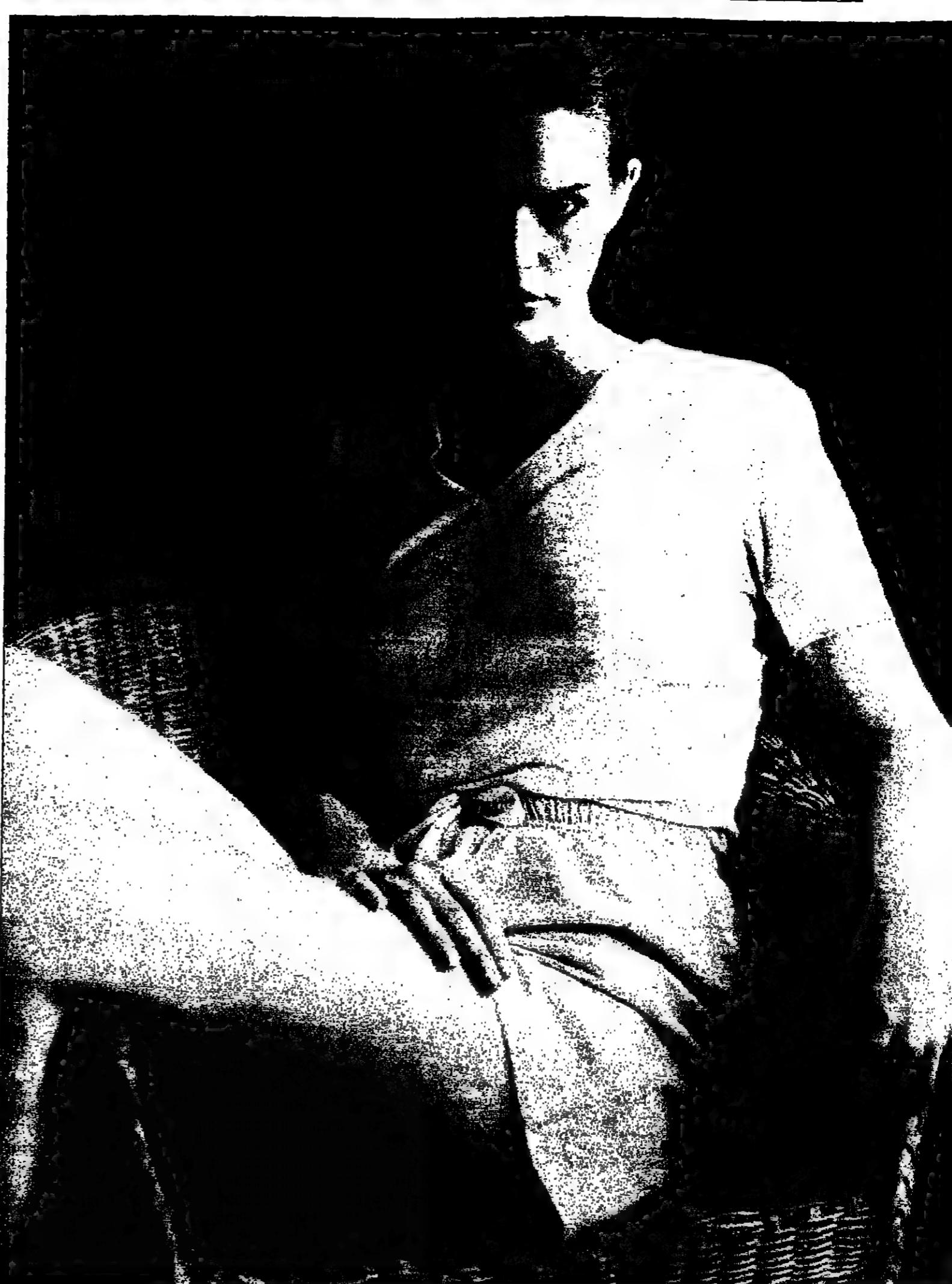


Brushed cotton-check pyjama set, £30, Knickerbox, branches nationwide (0171-284 1744)
White fine-strap vest, £14.50 (pack of three), Muji, 39-41 Shelton Street, WC2 (0171-323 2208)

All dressed up for a good night in



White towelling shorts, £29, Calvin Klein; vest top with lace trim, £35; blue cotton pyjama top (as part of set), £119, Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)



ABOVE: This lilac cotton T-shirt with matching drawstring shorts, £19.99, is available from Next, selected branches nationwide (01162 849424)
BELOW LEFT: Cream vest top with beige trim, £33; cream pyjamas, £50, available at Emporio Armani, 191 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-623 8188)

When it comes to what to wear in bed, anything goes. Unless you prefer sleeping *au naturel*, there are outfits to suit any mood and most climates, from the simple, traditional nightie to flouncy layers of froth.

"Most women choose nightwear not only for its function but for their mood and personality," says Sophie Wildblood, of Knickerbox.

If you are seeking boudoir glamour or something for that special evening, ornate and sumptuously sexy silks are an obvious choice — but these styles tend not to be bought by the wearer. "Eighty per cent of silk purchases are gifts," says Wildblood.

Good-quality cotton is the most popular choice; it's cool and allows the skin to breathe in summer, but is cosy and soft for winter.

Philip Regnault, the nightwear buyer for The White House, says its biggest-selling ranges are all cotton. "Because we have so many variations — from cotton jersey to cotton crêpe and cotton voile — many different weights and textures can be achieved," he says. Fine jersey, for example, can be almost transparent and is perfect in body-hugging styles because it stretches well.

Cotton voile is even more delicate — "like a fine mist," Regnault says — and can look as expensive as silk.

If you prefer looser, more flowing styles that are luxurious, cotton crêpe is ideal, because it has a similar drape to silk but is less slithery.

For most people, the simpler the style, the better. Gone are the days of elaborate, slightly vulgar silks with flower motifs and lacy edging. Today's

favourites have minimal detailing or little ribbon trims. And they needn't be dress styles, either. Pyjamas are becoming increasingly popular — in pale colours, stripes and checks — particularly now that they are available in more feminine cuts and lightweight cotton. As well as being pretty, these are eminently sensible, providing good cover for padding around the house or curling up on a sofa.

Another advantage of the new range of nightwear is that it can be worn outdoors: simple camisole nighties have been seen about town worn as evening dresses, and T-shirt and shorts sets on the streets on Sunday mornings as sleepy owners nip out for the milk and newspapers.

"It is all about ease," Wildblood says. "The Nineties woman wants something that she can slip in and out of, pieces that are practical and beautiful *in and out of doors*."

Aesthetics are important, but you have to feel as good as you look, so comfortable nightwear is essential. After all, whether you are wearing tomboy boxers or a feminine slip, a regular good night between the sheets is what every girl wants.



Spring-print cotton jersey slip, £14.99, River Island, selected branches nationwide (0181-998 8822)

Photographs by Richard Burns.
Make-up by Sally Kvalheim for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774). Styling by Amandip Uppal

THREE OF A KIND

FORGET those impractical wedge mules and slouchy moccasins, the slippers to be seen in are simply designed and orientally inspired. Here are three of the best. H.B.



Checked silk jester slippers, £39.50, Mulberry (0171-491 3900)



White velvet slippers, £35, Fenwick (0171-629 9161)



Sequinned Chinese slippers, £20, Paul Smith (0171-379 7133)

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q My compost box oozes a noxious-looking liquid. Is this any use as fertiliser, and at what dilution? — R.A.E. Hickson, Marton cum Grafton, Yorkshire.

A Use it as a fertiliser but diluted at not more than one part to ten parts water. Because this will be a highly nitrogenous fertiliser, be careful not to induce soft growth in plants with it late in the season; soft growth is always more susceptible to frost damage.

Q I want to fell a 40-year-old wild cherry which is making suckers all over the place, and then stop the suckers proliferating. What chemical can I use? — J. Gordon, Edinburgh.

A Cherries sucker for two reasons: they may have suffered mechanical damage to the roots from digging, or the main trunk may be starting to die. If you fell the tree, you will force prodigious energies into the suckers, which will probably get worse before they get better. However, if the tree must go, apply ammonium sulphamate (Root-Out) to the stump after felling. This must be done while the stump is fresh.

Q I have been unable to find a bulb supplier of the English *Iris xiphoides* after losing my collection when moving house. Can you help? — G.W. Somerville, Largs, Ayrshire.

A Why "English" *Iris latifolia*, as *I. xiphoides* is now known, comes from the French and Spanish Pyrenees. It is an upright plant much like the

florists' Dutch irises — which are hybrids of the Spanish *I. xiphium* and Moroccan *I. tingitana*, with a bit of the English iris thrown in. *I. latifolia* is available from Bob Brown's Cotswold Garden Flowers, 1 Waterside, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 6BS (tel/fax 01386 47337).

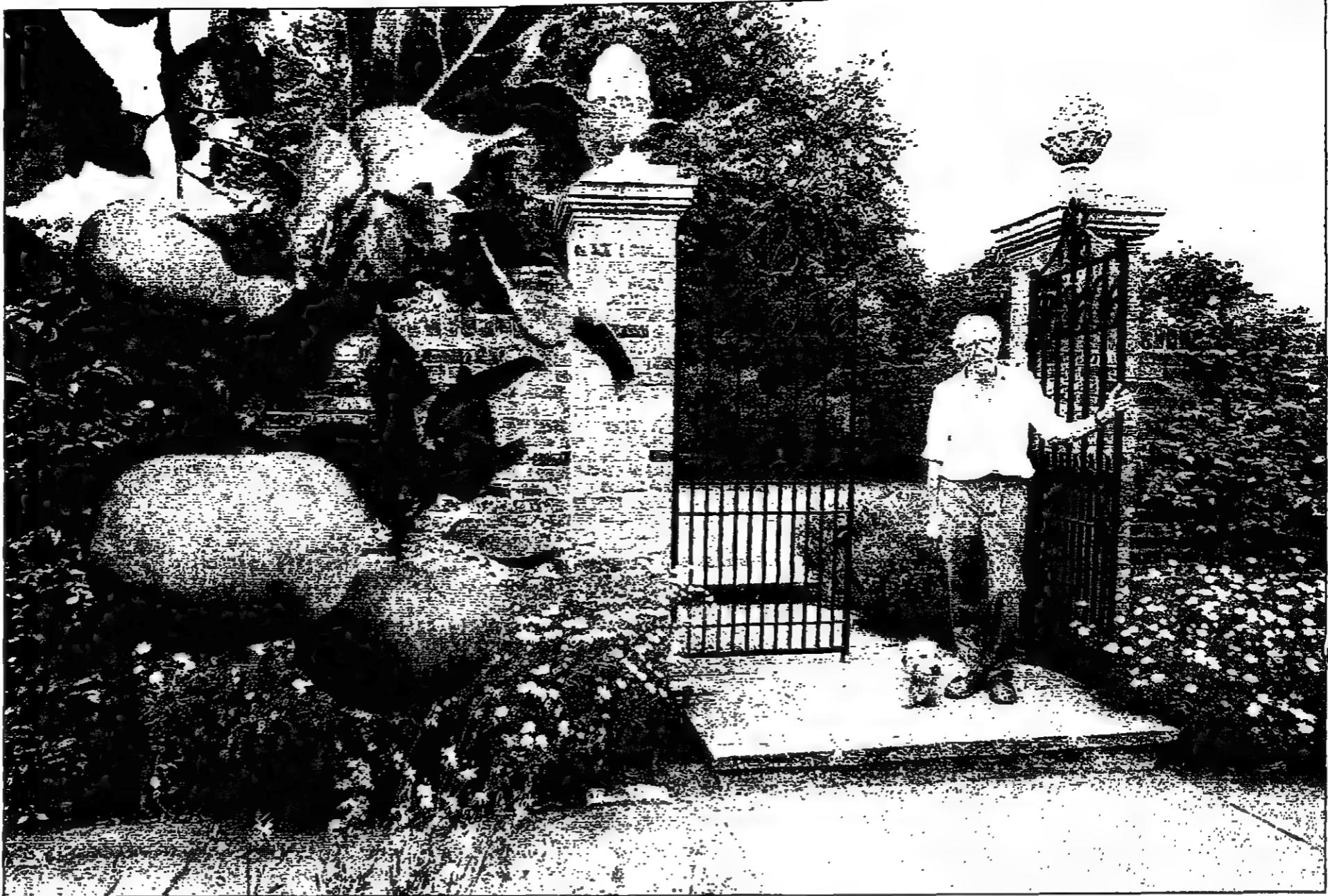
Q What has made the rhododendron I was given in full bloom last year such a total disaster this year. The buds remained like tight little balls, with only a couple of flowers, and the stems have turned darkish brown. Will it recover? — L.E.C. Riches, Pinner, Middlesex.

A The buds, if they were dry and brown, have bud blight, a fungal infection best handled in a small plant by picking off and burning the damaged flower buds in spring. Or, it may be that your plant is enjoying its new home and rich soil is making new wood rather than flowers for a couple of years. Don't worry about browning stems. Fat new shoots may be green, but they will all become brown as the bark matures. If the leaves on the new shoots are browning too, then the shoots are dying, most probably from drought. Keep it well watered and wait to see how it fares next year, when it has had a season to settle down.

● Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.

After world affairs, the former Foreign Secretary turns to homely matters. Jane Owen reports

GILL ALLEN



Lord Carrington at the gates of his home in the Chilterns — ten acres of chalk-based land nurtured into a series of specific "rooms", complemented with a public garden

Lordly vista carved from chalk

Converts to gardening usually have memories of a childhood idyll, an Eden they want to recreate. Lord Carrington, now an accomplished gardener, looks blank when asked about childhood gardening memories, then says: "My father used to grow dahlias. Huge things the size of plates." There are no dahlias in the ten-acre garden he and his wife, Tona, have made at The Manor House in the Buckinghamshire village of Bledlow, near Princes Risborough. There are sweeps of lawn, flying hedges of pleached lime, hornbeam, garden rooms, water gardens and a sculpture garden — all elegant and classical — where once there was farm land.

ME AND MY GARDEN: LORD CARRINGTON

Gardening captured the Carringtons dramatically in 1967 when first destroyed their tithe barn. "We looked out of our bedroom window in despair at the devastation. But then we became determined to get going on the garden. As a first step, we found a young, unknown designer, Robert Adam, who could not have had a better name," says Lord Carrington.

The Carringtons took to gardening with gusto. "We don't quarrel often — it is a partnership. My wife is interested in plants and colour and I am more interested in the layout," he says. He then proceeds to have a minor disagreement with his wife about an area they call St Peter's garden, a simple enclosure of yew and box, with a statue of St Peter (originally from the Houses of Parliament) dominating.

A longer-term disparity of views emerges over his garden schemes. "I had the bright idea of turning two-and-a-half acres of paddock into a new garden, but my wife didn't like the idea and said we already had enough garden. I said it would be a sculpture garden, but she said we didn't have any sculpture."

He got his sculpture garden. He invited five of the Royal College of Art's most promising students to lunch, gave them a tour of the garden and asked them to come up with ideas. The lunch bore fruit and today the sculpture garden — mostly planted with shrubs — is populated by non-figurative pieces, because Lord Carrington reckons that makes them less "stale-worth".

All the sculptures invite a caress: three gnarl-like shapes in granite by Peter Randall-Page, a smooth gorilla by Michael Cooper and an extraordinary piece, again by

Randall-Page, in pink granite, like an egg cut in half to reveal a contoured inside. Patrick Barker's Head over Heels has two figures in foetal position, tumbling down a slope.

The garden was Lord Carrington's great solace when ministerial life was rough. "I used to come back here and take out my bite on the weeds," says the one-time

yellow garden was created in another of the yew rooms, with great swaths of potentilla, lavender, rosemary and roses.

Across another sweep of lawn at the back of the house, some black-lined, formal, rectangular pools mark the end of the garden and the beginning of the sculpture garden, which is heralded by a 6ft-tall formal geometric topiary garden, planted six years ago and guarded by a topiary griffin.

Finally, in a steep-sided valley, across the road from the main garden and below the village church, there is the Lyde Garden, made by Lord Carrington and given to the public by him. The one-and-a-half-acre garden was scooped out of wilderness, and five springs trickle from the valley to form the Lyde which runs, via the River Thame, into the Thames.

This area was formerly used to grow watercress, and the Carringtons had a job getting rid of the stuff. Today, one of its main problems is blanket weed, which they keep in check with netted bundles of barley straw, placed so the water flows through them into the main pools.

Dazzling yellow hoods of skunk cabbage trace the course of the streams and, at the centre of one of a series of descending pools, an ornamental birdbath makes an eyecatcher.

The garden is open to the public, though some objectors say it should have been left in its natural state. Today it is a mass of luxuriant planting: tree ferns, gunnera, hostas, ferns, pink-flowered *Hibiscus syriacus* 'William R. Smith', *Senecio greyi*, willows, bamboos, the palm *Carpentaria californica*, *Lonicera nitida*, and a steep slope planted with box cut into an undulating sculptural shape. Lord Carrington is surely the master of the understatement when he says: "I had fun doing it."



A gorilla by Michael Cooper stands in the sculpture garden

Foreign Secretary who resigned during the Falklands War, later to become Secretary-General of Nato.

The couple have help in their battle against nature, being "4500 up on chalk" with muntjac deer and squirrel as pests, and the garden has an established air, partly due to the lunch partnership with Robert Adam.

Their first project, a wide brick path flanked with an unusual alley of viburnum cut into pompon shapes, was created to run from the house to a sunken rectangular pool garden. Around the edges of this garden are pyramids of rosemary, roses 'Pink Perpetue' and 'Golden Showers', the red stemmed *Rosa rugosa* and a red-flowered geranium.

mits one parental influence — his father's love of vegetable gardens. "It is satisfying the way they are so regimental and pretty and just waiting to be eaten," he says.

In the walled vegetable garden, Mophead apples and long hornbeam hedges give internal structure and the main paths make a cruciform. Herb beds, marked out by low hedges into rectangles, are filled with hyssop, sweet cicely, parsley, sage and mace, with beans, peas, strawberries and rhubarb in the main beds. Beyond the vegetable garden, around the swimming pool, are planted tubs, filled in spring with daffodils and tulips. This blaze of colour is offset by a series of cool, yellow-enclosed gardens. A blue-and-

Romantic Cornish rhapsody

■ Lanhydrock near Bodmin, Cornwall (01208 73320).

Two-and-a-half miles southeast of Bodmin. Open daily until Nov 2 from 10am-7pm. £3 (free to National Trust members).

The National Collection of crocuses is held here, along with an excellent showing of magnolias. The setting is romantic, with a stream running through the 30-acre parkland down to the River Fowey. The formal area is punctuated by huge, cone-shaped clipped yews and, further away from the house, there are peaceful woodland walks.

Turn End Townside, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire (01844 291383/291817).

Between Thame and Aylesbury off the A418. Open for the National Gardens Scheme on Sept 14 but at other times for groups by appointment only. £1.50.

The house and garden were created by its owner, the architect Peter Aldington, who has made a one-acre landscape go a long way, with arches leading through to

GARDENS TO VISIT



secret gardens, a gravel garden, a courtyard and a pond area. It is a remarkable modern garden where the house and garden meld effortlessly together. Many young designers rate this as a blueprint for a modern garden with staying power.

■ Castle Howard, North Yorkshire (01653 648333).

Five miles southwest of Malton. Open daily 10am-4.30 until Nov 2. £4.

The Royal Botanic Garden at Kew in southwest London has formed the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust to manage the important trees in part of the park, a 40-acre woodland known as Ray Wood. The impressive landscape surrounding the magnificent 18th-century house — the setting for the television series *Brideshead Revisited* — was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh and Nicholas Hawksmoor with a typically vast Nestfield water fountain (depicting Atlas and Tritons) and is worth a visit at any time of year, particularly in spring for its spectacular range of rhododendrons collected originally by Joseph Hooker, Frank Kingdon Ward, George Forrest and Reginald Farrer. In the flower gardens labelling is usually good, and there are spectacular rose areas with about 2,000 plants, mostly old-fashioned and standard.

JANE OWEN

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Natural born thrillers

The UK's most acrobatic garden animal, the grey squirrel, may strip your bark and gobble your rosebuds, but there are gardeners prepared to forgive its bad habits for its entertainment value.

"Give it a tree and it hangs by its toes, like a trapeze artist. Give it two trees, and there will be the most amazing bravura leaps from one to the other," says Joan Reeve, whose town-centre garden in Eastbourne, East Sussex, boasts a magnificent 50ft-high squirrel racetrack, otherwise known as a copper beech.

"Luckily for us, the squirrels eat the beech mast," she says, "which does make mowing the lawn a little easier, but of course they also eat bulbs and food on the bird table, and dig holes in the lawn."

But distract them from the bulbs by a spread of peanuts on a special squirrel table and make a separate bird table squirrel-proof in any of the ingenious ways recommended by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and you may find the little rodents have become almost garden-trained.

Not enough for some gardeners, of course, as Inspector Steve Kourik, wildlife liaison officer for Hertfordshire Police, has found. "People do ask me about legal means of control, and I have to advise against shooting as it is almost impossible to shoot safely in a garden, especially at a target that's higher than you are."

Poisoning is a possibility, but you have to make sure the poison goes in a special squirrel hopper so that nothing else can get at it. And you must remember that, if a poisoned squirrel is taken by, say, an owl, the owl could ingest the poison, and nobody wants this."

The few red squirrels remaining in Britain do not attract such opprobrium as the greys. On the Isle of Wight, where there are about 1,500 reds, supporters have even stretched a rope bridge 18ft above the busy B3320 to prevent the squirrels winding up as road casualties. It has been a 100 per cent success to date, according to Helen Butler, the Isle of Wight's Red Alert Project Officer.

"The reds are much prettier than the greys — small and delicate and with fluffy ear tufts. And they're unbelievably agile. They'll even try something stupid such as climbing up a greenhouse. Mind you, they

**Sue Corbett on
luring wildlife
into your garden**



The blue tit will eat your aphids

a pond, but it's a much more genuine David Attenborough-style pleasure watching nests.

"Another wonderful thing," he adds, "is to have swallows drinking out of the pond — it's one of the greatest pleasures of the year."

And it is not only swallows that are attracted to water. All garden birds appreciate a bird bath, or a pond with shallow edges they can walk into. Some, such as the blue tit, will repay gardeners' thoughtfulness by eating their aphids and beech mast. Nest boxes will make blue tits more welcome still, says the RSPB, and also accommodate other birds, such as great and coal tits, nuthatches, starlings and house martins.

Goldfinches can also be hugely entertaining in the garden — they have even been trained to use their feet to pull in food suspended on a string, loop by loop. They tuck into chickweed and dandelion seed, too.

Ponds will also entice bats, which do gardeners a favour by eating mosquitoes and putting on aerobatic displays to match those of the swallows. To encourage the insects they feed on, grow night-scented plants such as sweet rocket, honeysuckle and evening primrose, or turn on a garden light at dusk.

Build a pond almost anywhere and you'll get dragonflies," says Ruairi Mackenzie Dadds, who fell so heavily for them that he started dragonfly open days at Ashton Mill, near Oundle, Northamptonshire. "And the more types of water plant you put in, the more types of dragonfly you're likely to attract. Their amazing combination of grace and agility is the thing that gets me.

If you've got the time to sit by your pond on a sunny day (the best time is between midday and 2pm), you can see all this, as well as mating and fighting." And if you enjoy sitting out, you'll be pleased to know that mosquito larvae are a favourite meal for dragonflies.

• Red Squirrel Fact Sheet (leaflet £1 for p&p) from the Mammal Society (0171-406 4358).

• Planting Gardens for Birds and other Wildlife, free from the RSPB (0787 680551).

• Dragonfly open days at weekends at Ashton Mill, Ashton Wold, Ashton, near Oundle, Northamptonshire, until September 23, 10.30am-5pm. 01832 273427.



Red squirrel: "They are much prettier than the greys — small, delicate and unbelievably agile."



■ Make cuttings of roses, using pieces 9in long and finger-thick. Set them two-thirds into the ground, in a narrow trench lined with sand, in half-shade. The cuttings will callus over during winter and root during the spring. If they are rooted by mid-March, move them to final positions then. Otherwise wait until next autumn.

■ Sow lawn seed into well-prepared, fine soil which has been lightly dressed with fertiliser. Roll lightly when the soil is high and, when it has grown again, top it off lightly with the mower set at 2in. Only one or two cuts before winter will be required. Short mowing can commence next spring.

■ When frost threatens, pull up and pick outdoor tomatoes. Ripen the last fruits indoors in a conservatory or on a window ledge. Ripen melons in frames by keeping the temperature up.

■ When summer bedding plants are spent, take them up and compost them. Dig over and lightly feed beds intended for wallflowers, which will be available for planting shortly. In bare-rooted bundles, nine-inch slips of perennial wallflowers, such as the ever-flowering Bowles Mauve, will root if pushed into the ground now in a shady place.

■ Prune wall-trained peaches, nectarines and cherries, cutting out some of the fruited shoots and tying in replacements. Late plums should have any necessary pruning completed as soon as the fruit is picked, to avoid infection with silver leaf.

■ Stretch netting over ponds if you wish to keep out autumn leaves. Clear the net of leaves regularly.

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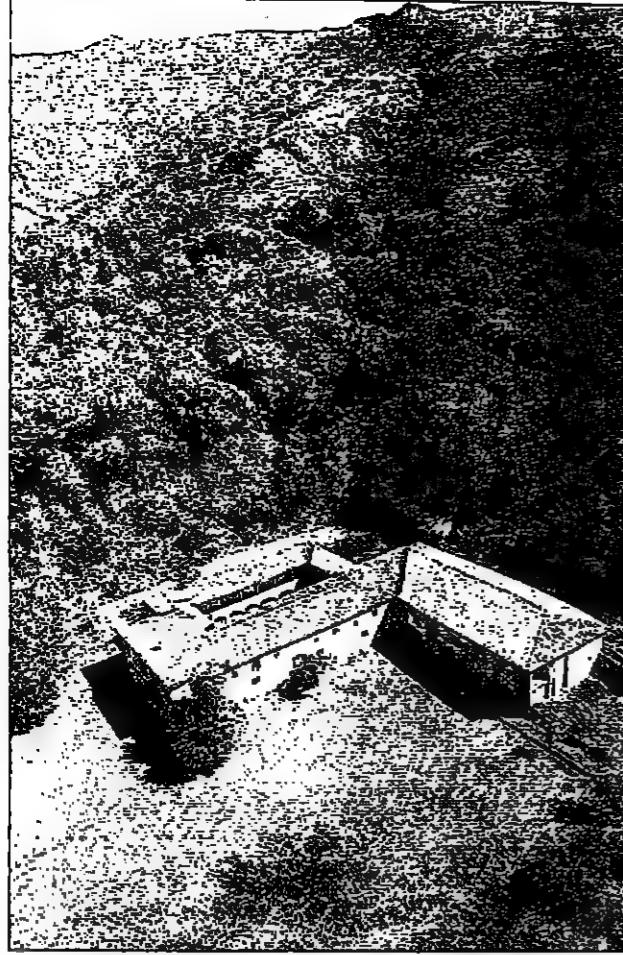
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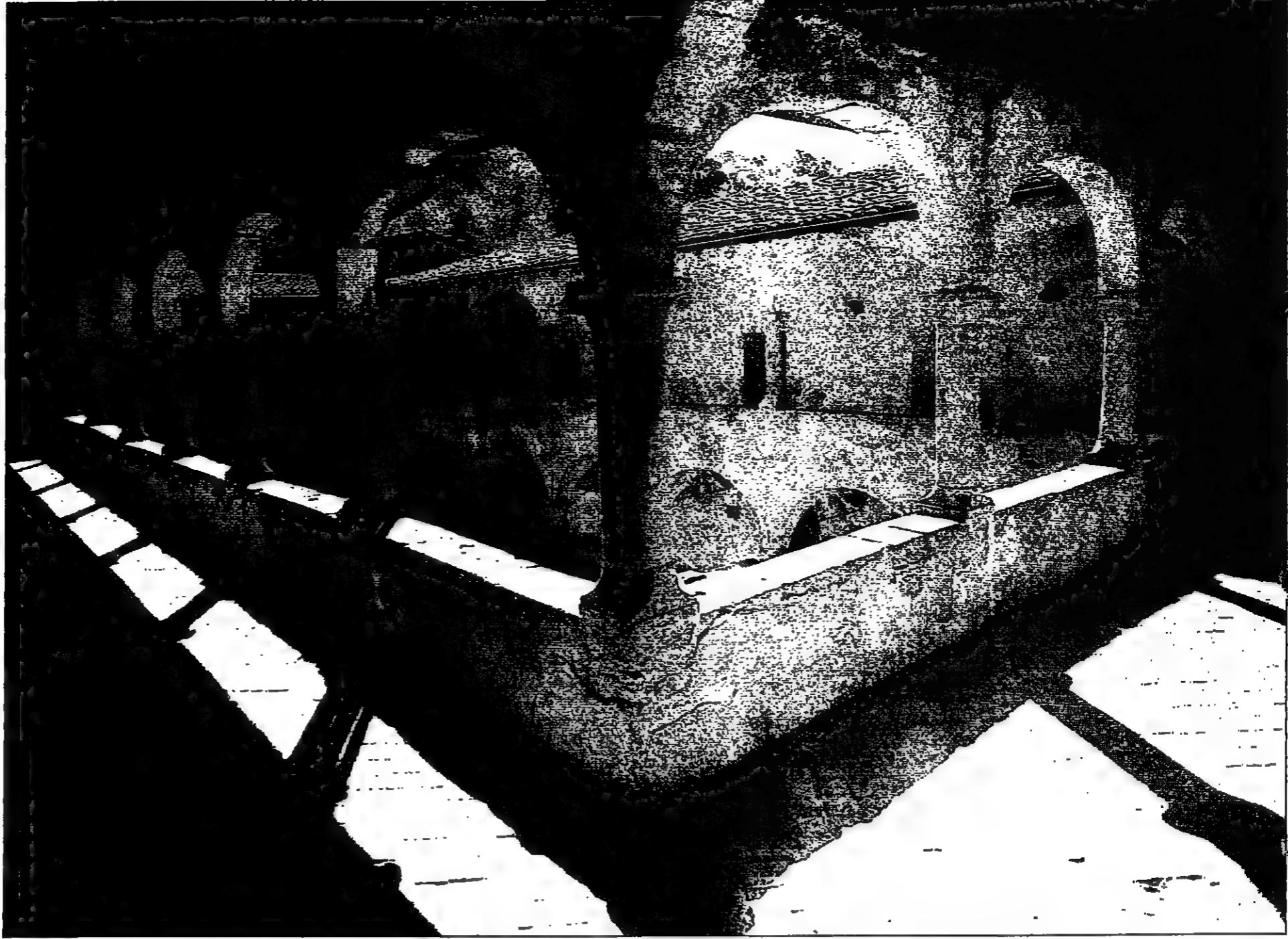
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House of the week: devotion and hard cash are needed to restore a Tuscan retreat, writes Erica Wagner



High church: San Francesco monastery in Garfagnana, built in the 15th century and uninhabited for 40 years



A blue Tuscan sky crowns the courtyard (above). The focal point of the building is a two-storey gallery which overlooks it, and decaying frescoes (below) adorn its walls

A task to test a saint

These days, it's customary to check that you can be connected to the water mains before you build your house. But in 1435 things were different, and the Frate Ercolano — a small group of Tuscan monks led by the miracle-working Beato Ercolano — went ahead and built their monastery, San Francesco, on top of a hill in the Garfagnana without any certainty of a water source.

It seemed as if the double-galleried courtyard might be uninhabitable, a monument not to

devotion but folly. But the Beato set himself to pray and to — just as the monks desired, a clear spring appeared from the side of the mountain. If only all plumbing problems could be so miraculously solved.

The Beato's prayers might come in handy for a buyer taking on San Francesco. After a winding, hairpin drive up the green-gold hillside, you reach the property's gate and wall — the entire 5-hectare site is enclosed. The place was last inhabited by monks in 1798, when it was sacked by French

troops; the chapel behind was pulled down in about 1800. After that it served as a farm, but has been uninhabited for the past 40 years, and the lack of care is beginning to show.

It would take a lot more than weather damage and neglect for a building of the stony solidity of San Francesco to fall down; but parts of the building seem well on the way. From the outside the monastery has an eyeless aspect, where windows have been bricked up to deter squatters. Inside, where long corridors surround the upstairs tier of the courtyard, many of the rooms are in too precarious a state to enter. The rose-painted plaster that covers the barrel-vaulted ceiling of one hallway makes a hard hat a must; one of the larger cells — some of which are cupboard-sized and windowless to facilitate concentrated prayer — is missing nearly all of its terracotta floor. From this second floor a stone staircase leads down to the courtyard; but its romanesque arch is propped up by an RSJ and none of us felt inclined to go too near.

The great strength of this property is its beautiful double-storey courtyard — quiet as the cloister it once was — with a blue square of Tuscan sky overhead. On the walls are decaying frescoes of popes and saints — clearly not original but not new either, and some appear to have even older work underneath. But these too are crumbling, and scrawled over with graffiti: the monastery even now is used as a place for local festivals. But the monasteries elaborate drainage system, is steeply sloped: tables and chairs set out for an evening might make guests feel drunk before they'd had a drop. Off the yard in the refectory there are photographs of parties held here in the 1920s and 1930s. men in stiff collars and women in dropped-waist shifts leaning against the painted walls.

There is no doubt that this is a place of some beauty — although its hillside site, by Tuscan standards, is not extraordinary. There is no doubt that this is a property of architectural interest — there are not many 15th-century monasteries up for sale. But the price is £700,000, and bringing the property up to scratch would probably set you back another £2 million. Some months ago I viewed a

magnificent 16th-century castle not far from Grosseto, in splendid shape, complete with 500 acres of woods, fields and vineyards and with five farmhouses also on the land, on offer for £3.7 million. This makes San Francesco look very costly indeed.

Paddy Dring of Knight Frank admits that Tuscan property is expensive, and guesses that a similar property might cost as much as 50 per cent less were it in less fashionable Umbria to the south. "This isn't a normal market," he says. "You're looking for a specific buyer: someone who wants something unique. Financially, if you take this on and restore it, you will be in the league of any house in Tuscany — the margin will still be there."

All this because Tuscany is,

for the moment, the fashionable place to be. Islington di Garfagnana, Tuscany, too, is closer to Florence and Pisa and their airports, making commuting back to the real Islington so much easier. But it

would be a brave soul who undertook the restoration of San Francesco; the Italian family selling it apparently has neither the heart nor the finances. At the end of the day — or, more realistically, a couple of years — it would still be a property with long corridors and small cells, whose lovely slants of light might not compensate for its eccentricity. It was built for prayer and contemplation: one wonders how inclined towards that life a modern buyer might be.

■ Agents: Knight Frank 0171-629 871.

MARKET SIGNALS



Tuscany

STERLING'S strength stands British buyers in great stead in Italy, with an exchange rate of about £2.90 to the pound. To set this in context, two years ago the house featured would have cost a British buyer nearer £800,000.

Prices remain pretty stable and the choice of restored properties has improved, but the idealised 17th- or 18th-century farmhouse, amid a few acres, was built for a family of 15-20 living in a few rooms, so you'll be paying for five or six bedrooms.

For the top end of the market in Chianti, expect anything from £600,000 to £4 million. Outside Chianti, prices are up to 30 per cent lower. Away from the prime region, £200,000 will buy a restored house with three or four bedrooms and a bit of land but no pool. In next-door Umbria, the same could be found for £120,000. The promise of international status for Perugia's airport from the year 2,000 has increased interest in that area.

OTHER relatively affordable Tuscan options include the under-exploited village house market, where you would find a house for £150,000-£200,000. Unrestored houses can be found, especially away from Chianti. At about £360 a sq m, a 300 sq m property to convert to a four-bedroom home will cost about £105,000.

Taxes and charges generally total 10-12 per cent of the sale price. They include purchase tax, levied at 11 per cent of the registered value for urban property and 18 per cent for rural property. The notary's fee is about 1 per cent of the registered sale price; agent's commission 3 per cent.

HOME SWAP

DESPITE rising house prices, there are still some areas that offer better value than others. Some of the best property buys can be found south of the capital, just nudging Kent. A terraced three-bedroom Victorian house near Bromley South station (20 minutes from Victoria) can be found for under £100,000, a studio flat in a 1960s block in St. Mary Cray for £32,000.

In East Sussex, the area around the medieval hill-top cinque port town of Rye is cheap and good value. It is at least two hours from Rye to Waterloo, via Ashford or Hastings, which rules out most London commuters; second-home buyers remain the driving force. Pretty seaside and country cottages here sell quickly, priced from £80,000 to £120,000.

Empty-nesters from the south, priced out of the Cotswolds, are moving farther north and west to Herefordshire in search of better value.

Black and white timbered cottages and detached bungalows in the countryside around Hereford, priced from £70,000, are selling fast to returning home buyers.



About £87,000 will buy you a 99-year lease on a one-bedroom flat in a newly converted character building, on the outskirts of Crockenhill, near Swanley, Kent. JDM, 01689 819819.



In Herefordshire, £85,000 will stretch to Snowdrop Cottage, three-bedrooms, set in a large garden, in the small hamlet of Ashton, near Leominster. (Bill Jackson, 01588 610600.)



Or you could buy The Legacy, a detached, two-bedroom late Victorian house at The Port, Rye Harbour, East Sussex, for £85,000. (Phillips & Stubbs, 01797 227338.)

CHERYL TAYLOR

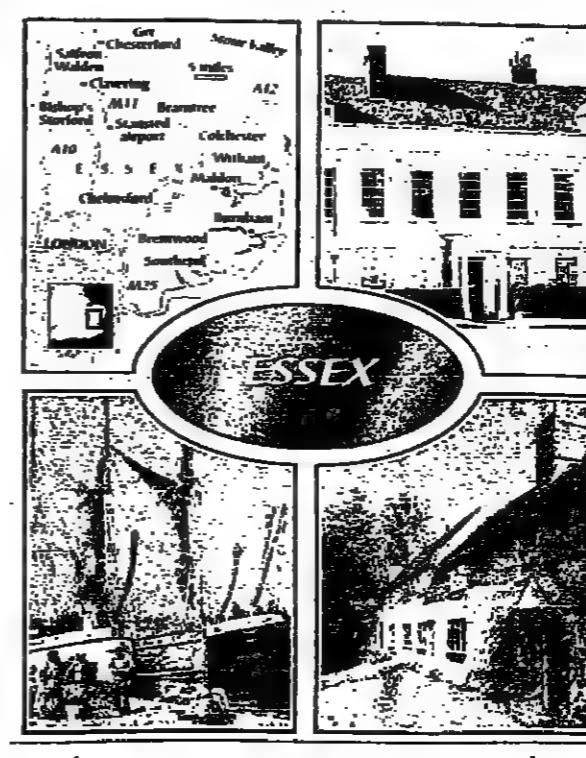
PROPERTY PROFILE: ESSEX

Attractions: the county has moved on since its 1980s image as home to the "Essex man" and "Essex woman". Commuters are drawn by good rail links into London — Colchester to Liverpool Street can take 40 minutes — and the A12, M11 and the A120 which is being made into a dual carriage-way between Braintree and the M11. Stansted airport is a bonus. Hotspots coastal areas such as Maldon and Burnham lure the boat owners, while historic Colchester is said to be England's oldest town, suffering the attacks of the warrior Queen Boudicca around AD 60. The Stour Valley, along the Essex-Suffolk border, known as Constable country, is a spot favoured by house-hunters and home to Gainsborough. The corridors between the M11, A10 and A12 are the real hotspots, says the agent Mullucks Wells in Saffron Walden, including villages such as Clavering and Great Chesterford. The market: prime prices have risen by about 10-12 per cent this year, says Strutt & Parker in Chelmsford. Savills in Chelmsford reports lack of supply, with 25 properties on their books compared with 105 at the end of the recession. City types with big bonuses fuel the market, says Mullucks Wells, and Savills reckons they make up 65 per cent of purchases over £500,000. Prices fell by 30-40 per cent during the recession, says Fenn Wright in Colchester. Prices have now reached 1988 levels and in some cases exceeded them. Expect to pay: prices in undervalued and less commutable northeast Essex can differ by as much as 100 per cent from those in the more desirable southwest, Savills says. Detached cottages, whose prices have just started to recover, go for £150,000 to £200,000 in the northeast, compared with £160,000 to £220,000 in the southwest; farmhouses with some land £275,000 to £375,000 compared with £300,000 to £400,000 further south; and a medium-size country house £500,000-plus compared with £700,000-plus.

Significant sale: Grade II-listed Barnardiston House, an old people's home at Chipping Hill, near the sought-after village of Witham, was on and off the market for 18 months while the owners tried to sell it as a going concern. The six-bedroom Georgian house eventually sold as a private home in June through Strutt & Parker for well over £200,000.

Outlook: good for the immediate future, says Fenn Wright. Mullucks Wells believes a few more properties will come on to the market this autumn. Strutt & Parker expects more gradual increases, with supply beginning to even out.

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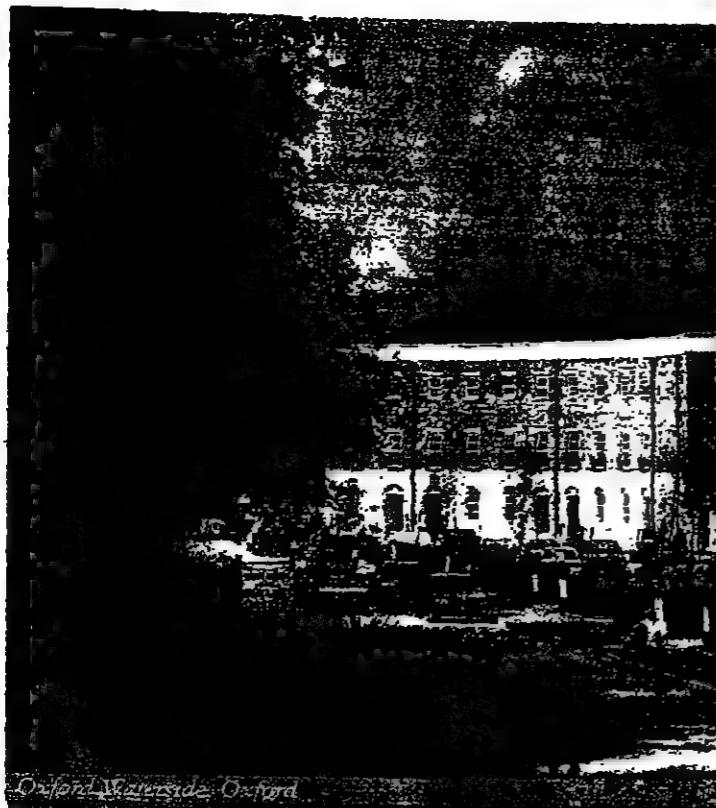
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Westerham £335,000

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NORTH LONDON 0181 449 0000

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Westerham £335,000

Westerham. Located just outside the centre of Westerham is this 5 bedroom detached property with planning permission currently awaiting for a 3 bedroom bungalow and a replacement dwelling.

Westerham £335,000

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Rural recommendations

The place: below the sails of John Webb's windmill, Thaxted, Essex.

The view: to the north is the magnificent spire of St John the Baptist church; to the right, neat houses fold gently into the rolling, arable farmland.

The appeal: a working windmill, with an array of farming memorabilia in a well-preserved medieval town.

Affectionadoes: a few foreign tourists, walkers and visitors from other parts of the county.

Historical interest: the windmill was built in 1804 and supplied flour to the community for more than 100 years during a time of agricultural expansion. Exhibits include a fire engine from 1835 and a 100-year-old pair of children's clogs. Thaxted dates back to 1066 and was built around a Saxon settlement.

Time to visit: the windmill is open between 2.30pm at weekends until the end of the month, but the view and village are worth seeing at any time.

How to get there: B184 from Great Dunmow. Take the path beside church opposite the Swan Hotel and the windmill is just beyond a row of almshouses.

OS reference: 609/309 on sheet 167.

Also nearby: the house where Gustav Holst lived. The timbered Guildhall is a rare, fine example of medieval architecture and is used as much today as it was almost six centuries ago. The Cake Table Tearoom for home-baked cakes. Audley End House, a significant Jacobean mansion, is five miles to the northwest.

DEBORAH KING

This month, readers enlighten us on turning water into wine, and have their say on country footpaths

Honey, that drink's a stinger

Your letters in the past few weeks have fallen neatly into two piles, one of which deserves urgent attention, because it relates to bees and we are about to enter the honey harvesting season. The other pile contains stinging criticism of my suggestion for wiping all footpaths off the map and starting again. There have been many waspish replies to that one.

Bees first — or "possibly" bees. Last month I mentioned Philip Henry, of Hove, Sussex, whose father performed the apparent miracle of turning water into wine (or at least some kind of alcoholic drink) by employing a secret ingredient which he called "myth-gum". Seventy years on, Mr Henry still remembers the mystical, evil blob which rose and fell in the jug as if it were alive, but has no clue as to what it might have been. We may be able to help.

David Cooper, of Birchington, Kent writes: *This sounds to me like "metheglin", which apparently comes from the Welsh, meiddyglyn, a sort of mead with O-levels. The "blob" was presumably the clump-forming yeast which, according to C.J. Berry, the dozen of home wine-making, is called *Saccharomyces* *Pyroformis*, now all but impossible to find.*

Do not fret, thirsty reader. Mrs May of Rhos on Sea, Chwyd, firmly believes that what we are talking about here is bees wine, a Welsh spiced mead. She writes: *It started off as a small blob of soft creamy substance placed in a large glass jar. This was then filled with water (and presumably honey) and placed on a sunny windowsill. In a short time it began to ferment.*

John Clark of Worcester Park, Surrey, went no further than a Boots' recipe book for Spiced Welsh Mead and, although the method is too long to publish here, I can tell you that wine yeast, honey and mixed herbs, such as balm, rosemary, sage and thyme, should do the trick. I have no doubt you will let me know the results, if your hand remains steady enough to write the address.

HANDS QUIVERING with rage were evident from your replies to my suggestion that, in the interests of allowing more people easier and more pleasant access to the countryside, we should abandon our old network of footpaths by the general agreement of all interested parties, draw up another one.

Clive Williams, of Ropseley near Grantham, Lincolnshire, writes: *How refreshing to have a sensible view towards footpaths. As a farm manager I was involved in with the Ramblers when reorganising footpaths. Initially we*



Source of the nectar: bees played their part in a minor miracle by producing the honey for Spiced Welsh Mead

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

tried a radical approach, similar to your suggestions, obviously benefiting the farming operation but also, we believed, making more attractive walks for the public. Alas, we were met with an intransigent attitude from the Ramblers who were only interested in the retention of all existing paths but, of course, welcomed any additions. Fortunately we came to a suitable compromise and created several circular walks.

But Ian Bennett of Otham, Kent, writes: *I cannot believe that a rationalisation will turn out to be anything but a sacrifice by the people of their right to walk many paths — some of which may not be used much today but could be in the future. Most probably, straight walks which now enjoy fine views across fields will become instead dreary dog-leg diversions skulking around field edges on half-ploughed and overgrown headlands. Never forget that the final court in the land is the big landowner's club, the House of Lords.*

Jerry Pearlman, honorary solicitor to the Ramblers' Association, sees through

me when he tells me I am being "provocative". Of course I am. He writes: *Almost all paths lead somewhere, usually linking up with another path or road. The fact that they are impossible to find is not a reason for altering the path — it is a reason for the local authority to clear the path. Experience has shown that cleared paths are more frequently walked. It is the hoary old annual which is most provocative: the*

idea that the footpath network has lost the purpose for which it was originally intended and thus it should be altered. How boring. How pedantic. The whole beauty of the footpath network is that it takes one into places where otherwise you would not be able to reach by routes which are sometimes eccentric but almost always a pleasure.

Mr Pearlman, let me take you by the hand and we shall ramble together into the sunset, for we are of the same mind.

But I take a slightly broader view which encompasses the increasing numbers requiring undemanding access to the countryside. Why should they be excluded at the expense of those who consider walking to be a near-religious experience, the more esoteric the better?

Would there not be more walkers, of all classes, doing less damage, and getting more pleasure if some of the less attractive walks were swapped for more interesting and accessible ones?

Don't worry Mr Pearlman, it would still leave enough dreary walks to last you a lifetime.

Sabines swoop on Ireland

FEATHER REPORT

ON FRIDAY last week a flock of 347 Sabine's gulls was seen off the coast of Co Kerry in the Republic of Ireland. It must have been an astonishing sight for the observers who counted them as they passed by. The Sabine's gull is a rare bird in the British Isles. It nests in the marshes of the tundra around the North Pole, and in the autumn the greater part of the population haunts the sea off both the east and the west coast of America.

Some birds drift across the Atlantic towards the Bay of Biscay, but in most years only a few are recorded in British or Irish waters. The best place to see one in Britain is said to be St Ives in Cornwall.

They are delightful and distinctive birds, and I have a particular feeling for them, since one of the first rare birds I saw as a boy was a Sabine's gull over Staines Reservoir in Middlesex. They are small gulls, with a forked tail like a tern, and an unmistakable wing-pattern, with a dark forewing and a large white triangle behind it. Both the young birds and the adults sport this characteristic plumage. In summer the adults have a dark hood, but that is hardly ever seen here.

I can still remember the light, dipping flight of the bird I saw at Staines, and the way it dropped down to pick up food from the water without settling. In fact, it behaved just like the black terns which are also passing through Britain now as members of the great autumn migration.

DERWENT MAY

• What's about Birds — look out for migrant pied flycatchers, redstarts and whinchats almost anywhere.

• Twitchers — a white-winged black tern at Hammingfield, Essex; a lesser yellowlegs at Hayle, Cornwall; a Wilson's phalarope at Kinsale, East Yorkshire.

Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p a minute at all other times.

PETER BROWN



Rare: Sabine's gull

Flower power buried deep in the hedgerows

Elder, that smelly shrub which no one likes, is the basis of a thriving £12 million drinks industry

If the growing army of elderflower pickers did a good job earlier this summer, much of our countryside will be deprived of the rich, glossy, blue-black berries that bring us the first tinges of autumn colour. But, ironically, the picking of increasingly vast amounts of the foamy white flowers — to supply a burgeoning elderflower drinks industry — could be a potent means of conserving one of our most characteristic, but least loved, shrubs.

What Richard Mabey, in his *Flora Britannica*, described as "a mangy, short-lived, opportunistic and foul-smelling shrub" is now the basis of a thriving £12 million drinks industry which started only in 1980 and which is totally dependent on wayside elder for its success.

According to information compiled by Dr Hew Prendergast, of the Centre for Economic Botany at Kew, and Fiona Dennis, a horticultural consultant, 15 million litres of cordial (converted to ready-to-drink equivalent) and sparkling elderflower drink was produced in the UK in 1995, the most recent year for which they could compile figures. That is an increase of 300 per cent in four years.

What is more, Prendergast and Dennis see no signs of this increase abating. The product is, they believe, "successful because of its very simplicity: its branding; the fact that it's a single flavour; its light taste and its straightforward herbal usage to fend off colds".

Bottle Green Drinks, based in Stroud, Gloucestershire, has produced about half a million bottles of cordial and a million large bottles of other elderflower drinks this year. "The market has grown remarkably, beyond our wildest expectations," says Kit Morris, a partner in the company, one of the largest in the UK.

"Our biggest stockists are supermarkets but we're aiming now at pubs and hotels, too," he adds, reflecting perhaps an overall decline in the consumption of alcoholic drinks. "We need around 25 tonnes of flowers a year at the



Blooming marvellous: Elderflower pickers at work. One drinks company needs as much as 25 tonnes of the flowers a year and pays £1 per lb

of Plant Life. Then he adds, with even more arithmetic dexterity: "Suppose an average of 50 flower heads per shrub, then they must pick over about 50,000 elder trees." Multiply this by the number of companies making elderflower drinks (at least eight) and an awful lot of elder trees lose their flowers each year.

Companies such as Bottle Green Drinks have a "pickers' code of conduct", including getting permission, not breaking branches, picking only those flowers in full bloom and delivering them to the factory cool, fresh and uncrumpled on the day of collection. Serious pickers can earn £60 to £70 a day.

Much of the dislike seems to

stem from its past association with witchcraft and death.

According to *Flora Britannica*, if you burn elder wood you see the Devil himself. In the distant past no one was supposed even to cut it without permission from the local witch. And, to add a twist of the macabre, it is said that

horse drivers (before the invention of the long, black car) preferred it for the handles of their whips.

With all this — both real and imagined — animosity towards the elder shrub (it can actually grow to a 25ft tree), Mr King sees the elderflower drinks industry offering an

alarming by the removal of vast numbers of elder flowers and the consequent lack of autumn berries. "Birds such as thrushes and young starlings eat large amounts of them; so do some warblers like blackcaps and whitethroats to help them fatten up for their autumn migration," he says.

"But there are plenty of other autumn fruits around and, in any case, few elder berries remain by the end of the autumn or early winter. So they aren't available to get birds through the leanest times of the year."

Can the drinks companies continue to rely on hedgerow

and farmland trees scattered about the countryside? Surely it would be in their interest to grow their own plantations to secure their supplies, thus removing any incentive to conserve the wayside elder as we know it.

Guy Woodall, chairman of Thorncroft, another large producer, thinks not. "I don't see it becoming a big farm crop: we grow a little commercially but we're perfectly content to continue to employ pickers in the countryside," he says. "We pay around 300 pickers, but it's a short season — only about three weeks."

Dr Prendergast, though, sees possibilities for farmers to turn some fields over to elder, a crop which might perhaps even attract European Union subsidies in the future. After all, olive growers across southern Europe rely on such supports. Getting the drink in Brussels bars could help.

Either way, the future of our smelliest shrub seems much more secure. For the first time it really could become an elder statesman of the countryside.

MALCOLM SMITH



Fruitful concoctions (from left): elderflower and lemon sorbet, three different sparkling elderflower wines, and two vinegars made from elderflowers and blackberries

A VET WRITES

Q Last week my three-month-old Airedale puppy died from an epileptic fit just before a thunderstorm. Until then he had been a healthy, happy puppy. My vet told me Airedales are prone to epileptic fits, but the breeder discounts this. My pup was born nearly 48 hours after his litter mates. Could this have caused some weakness? I'm looking for another Airedale and want to avoid further problems.

A Fits occur from many causes, primary epilepsy being one, and a tendency to this can be inherited. As far as I am aware, Airedales are not so afflicted and primary epilepsy is rarely fatal. It's rare in dogs below a year old, so while a fit was associated with your puppy's death, I'm not convinced it was epilepsy. He could have been born with a brain disorder or a weakness of the blood vessels, which resulted in a cerebral haemorrhage — just possibly connected with a delayed birth. Infection of the brain cannot be ruled out. A fatal fit could be the first sign of any of these conditions. A post-mortem might have provided an explanation. But your pup's end was rare and is most unlikely to happen again.

Q Our cat is hooked on dry cat biscuits. She refuses gourmet canned food until we sprinkle dry food on top. A friend has told me I'm endangering her life because dry cat food causes liver damage. If this is true, why is it so?

A It's not true. Like so many 'old wives' tales, this one is based on a morsel of fact. Twenty-five years ago the first dry cat biscuits did cause bladder — not liver — problems. Meat, fish and canned cat food contain more than 70 per cent fluid, nearly as much as a cat needs. No one realised that a cat eating dry food (10 per cent fluid) might not drink enough to top up his liquid needs. These first dry foods contained a lot of magnesium and the combination of insufficient liquid and excess magnesium salts caused crystals to form in the bladder. She-cats developed acute cystitis, some males were unable to pass urine. For many years the magnesium level of cat biscuits has been controlled and a notice on every packet emphasises the importance of clean drinking water at all times. A cat with a history of cystitis should avoid dry food. Otherwise it's a perfectly satisfactory part of the diet.

JAMES ALLCOCK

As the RSPCA calls for a ban on beach rides, Robin Young asks: Is life really so bad for donkeys?



Donkey rides for children provide a quintessential image of British summer holidays but now the tradition, stretching back to Victorian times, is under threat because of concerns over the animals' welfare

Riding into controversy

We have heard about Spaniards loading donkeys' backs with stones until their backs break, making the poor beasts carry the village's heaviest man, or dropping the unfortunate animals from 50ft towers. And now we are told that the British habit of treating children to donkey rides on the sands is cruel.

The RSPCA wants donkeys banned from those few beaches that still provide them with employment, such as Blackpool, where up to 160 animals are licensed to work the sands at any one time.

The society's chief inspector, Brian Jeffries, whose beat includes Blackpool, said recently: "It is wrong to expect any animal to stand on the beach and be exploited. It is very much out of date and I would like to see an end to the practice. It is a relic of Victorian times and not at all what we want to see today."

This makes an abrupt change from urgent demands that we return to Victorian values. For donkeys, it seems, the good old days are past.



Linda Beast of burden?

Time was when every resort had its string of Jennys, Maisies, Dollys and Ee-yores patiently waiting to provide a brief and placid journey of delight. Now, we are to believe, that pleasant amble is really a ride from hell.

"It must have been unimaginable for these animals to be working in the kind of heat we have had recently, and on the hot sand," says Chief Inspector Jeffries. "The sand is very dry and blowing about in the wind. These animals are breathing particles of it in all day long."

It makes one wonder how the donkey that carried Jesus Christ into Jerusalem on a donkey at the start of the palm Sunday must have suffered. Pretty hot and sandy place, the Holy Land. Not really fit for donkeys. Jesus was lucky that year the summer was cold and wet and the camels spent most of their time in the sick bay feeling terribly sorry for themselves.

The council still enforces a Donkey Charter, which dates back to 1942, and controls the donkeys' working hours, stipulating that they get a day off a week and proper lunch break with their saddles loosened. An enforcement officer patrols the beach to ensure that the charter is

DONKEY HOMES

If the RSPCA decides to withdraw donkeys from our beaches, there are several sanctuaries offering assistance, including the following:

- The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon (01395 578222). Largest sanctuary of its kind in the world.
- Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary, Wroxall (01983 852493). Receives more than 50,000 visitors each year.
- Folly's Farm Sanctuary for Donkeys, Berkhamsted, Herts (01442 87158). Small, six-acre centre has a homeopathic vet.
- Michael Elliot Trust near Buxton, Derbyshire (01298 79775). Includes therapeutic centre where children can spend a week with a donkey.

Goodness, Mr Jeffries, animals cannot be 100 per cent fit all the time. Go into any field and look at the coprots. You will probably decide that, if cows have ready access to grass, it gives them chronic diarrhoea, and that they should all therefore feel much better off back in intensive farming systems where they can be given pre-planned diets and never be troubled by so much as a fly again.

A RSPCA spokeswoman said of the beach donkeys: "It is something we have concerns about. We question whether it is really an appropriate use of such an animal. It is very difficult in the environment of a beach to keep an animal in circumstances where it is comfortable and that are healthy for it."

Have these people not noticed how uncomfortable it is to be a sheep, exposed on a Welsh hillside in all weather, and not paid any attention without being chewed by dogs or peened against one's will? It is not a very comfortable life in the environment of a mountain sheep run — either before or after you are forcibly barbed by a shear-wielding Delilah the shape of Giant Haystacks.

Ana Sewell made a very good thing out of exposing the cruelties suffered by horses in *Black Beauty*. Luckily, not too long after she had banked her royalties, Messrs Morris, Austin and Henry Ford came along to provide a practical solution as far as draught and carriage horses were concerned, at least, by popularising the internal combustion engine. If there had been a 30 cwt Bedford about the place, poor Ginger need never have died.

By the way, if giving children rides is not an appropriate use for a donkey, what is? Don't answer that, because I already know: the French and Italians turn them into sausages. Please don't tell Mr Jeffries. It will only upset him.



Louisa Young

W

tion lunch party."

Potential new owners of Battersea dogs are interviewed and their home circumstances taken into account before dogs are released into their care. The home's rehabilitation service makes sure the dogs are fit to be rehomed.

The dogs, which sell for £50 to £70, are all vaccinated and microchipped, some are neutered, and all owners receive a free 3kg bag of dogfood, an entitlement to three months' free veterinary treatment and the reassurance of being able to use the advice line.

For details of a dog-rescue organisation near you, contact the Kennel Club on 0171-423 8651 or write to the club at Clarges Street, London W1Y 5AB.

To buy a dog from your nearest RSPCA, call 01403 223284.



Peter: unseeing affection

PETER is a five-year-old black cat who is blind. Having lived in a loving home, he is affectionate, able and fully house-trained but would need to live indoors in a quiet, caring home with a calm and understanding owner.

For more information about Peter, please contact Wood Green Animal Shelters, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (01403 830014).



Party animals: dog and owner get ready to celebrate

Battersea dogs come home for a party

Former residents of the famous rescue centre and their owners are heading for a reunion, writes Sue Corbett

At about 9.30am tomorrow, Holly will be starting to get excited. The chocolate-brown and sandy mongrel bought from the Dogs' Home, Battersea, three-and-a-half years ago will have been dozing on and off since leaving home in Rotherham, South Yorkshire. But the minute her owner's car reaches London, she will put her nose to the ventilation panel, sniff avidly, wag her tail and, says her owner Tracey Newbert, "generally go potty".

"I'm sure she knows," says Miss Newbert. "I don't know if it's the smell of the city that tells her we're in London or if it's just because I'm slowing down. But she knows we're on our way to the Battersea Dogs' reunion."

The reunion is the annual jamboree for former residents of the home and their new

owners. More than 3,000 people and 1,000 dogs are expected at Battersea Park between 11am and 5pm to participate in canine beauty competitions; a dog scurry (with jumps and obstacles); agility demonstrations; a canine fancy-dress competition; a singalong luncheon stroll for dogs and owners and children's events. A vet will advise on dog care, and a dog beautician will clip dogs' claws and groom them for a small donation.

You don't have to own a dog to be welcome, but if you are interested in buying a Battersea dog, staff will advise you. You can pop over to inspect the dogs currently on offer. The home will be open for its normal weekend hours of 10.30am to 3.15pm.

"The reunion's wonderful, with a real carnival atmosphere," says Biddy Woolton, of Petersfield, Hampshire, who will be returning with Will, a mongrel she bought from the home four years ago. "It's good to see all those people — they must be aged from two to 92 — and their dogs, and to realise that all those animals were once unwanted and now they're very much loved."

The reunion is now in its third year. "It's our way of saying thank you to the people who buy dogs from us," says Shirley Piotrowski, the home's

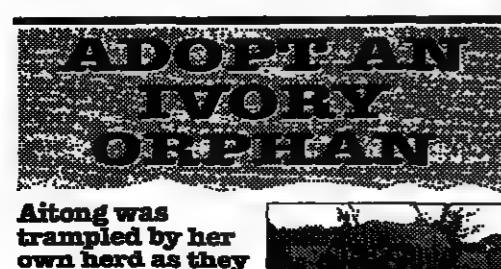
PR and events manager. "We don't just flog them dogs and then say goodbye for ever. We want to go on encouraging them as owners. That's why we have an advice line and do after-sales visits, and why we plan to launch a Battersea Dogs' Club next year."

"What is pleasant is that everyone helps. Staff make up the doggy bags for the dogs to take home, and our usual suppliers, such as Pedigree Petfoods, kindly donate the chews to put in them. Last year, a lady who had had a dog from us who had a 12sq ft cage for owners and dogs, fed it and decorated it with chews. This year we'll have a massive dog-biscuit and chocolate-but-

TEL: 0171 680 6122

ANIMALS & ACCESSORIES

FAX: 0171 782 7799



Aitong was trampled by her own herd as they fled in panic from the sound of poacher's guns.

Thanks to the loving care and unique expertise provided by Daphne Sheldrick's animal orphange, Aitong survived.

Following the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in June this year, a limited trade in ivory is set to begin again in 1999. For young elephants like Aitong, the consequences could be devastating.

But the RSPCA can help. We provide the milk, food, medical attention and loving care that they need, and also give aid to elephant conservation worldwide.

• A colour photograph of Aitong • An adoption certificate • A VHS video of the orphans

• A fund-raising suggestion • An update after six months

Please tick the relevant boxes and return to:

Yes, I would like to help Aitong the orphan elephant.

Person making payment

Postcode

Please send pack to: The Foster parent

I enclose a cheque/money order for £

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'I have started to wonder whether I am going to pass from adolescent angst to midlife crisis without having that bit in between'

Last Saturday was my friend Mary's fortieth birthday. Her husband decided to mark the event with a great big party, the invitation to which for some reason brought on most tremendous fit of inexplicable gloom. So tenaciously did it prove, the gloom, that eventually, having tried and failed to Snap Out Of It, I began to apostrophise myself in the mincing Morningside accents of a very small Scottish psychotherapist, with whom I once had a brief and remarkably tiresome encounter: "Sooo, Jane," I said to myself. "What is it that bothers you, exactly? The fact that your friend is 40, or the fact that she's having a party?"

Well, both, actually. This slouching-towards-forty business comes as a bit of a shock. It's like that very peculiar moment, a couple of elections ago, when the first wave of one's university contemporaries turned up in the House of Commons with their pinstriped suits, and wings of hair (those of them that still had any hair) neatly brushed behind their ears, and Views on the rest of us ought to conduct our lives.

I always feel a bit put out when I see them on the telly, talking about great

Never having to say you are 40

affairs of State. Not that I have the slightest desire to join them in bossing around my fellow countrymen, and jumping into crocodile-infested swamps. Brooding thus, I set off for the party, unaccompanied, since Alexander had a prior engagement. This in itself was alarming since, lacking any kind of small talk, I am perfectly useless at parties, and tend to stand, frozen with terror, gripping a glass and looking (I am told) so extremely forbidding as to ensure that no one would dream of coming up and trying to start a conversation.

Mary's was a particularly grown-up party of great elegance and sophistication — the house transformed into a kind of Moorish tent; great platters of delicious ham and chocolate with pink inside and so on, but I don't remember any of that.

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

with the boozey hipsters and the Important Jewellery? Is Alexander nervously trying to have a Serious Chat with me about trying to look a bit more like a Proper Mother? — I teetered off on my unmaternal stilts and had such a lovely time at the rest of the party that on the way home, I found myself thinking, perhaps I should plan a birthday party.

Eventually the conversation turned, as it always seems to among busy thirty-somethings, to the awful difficulty of juggling work and children. "You have

no idea how exhausting it is," sighed one busy mummy. Well, I demurred, I did have some idea. "You've got a child?" said this mummy, eyeing me sharply. "You don't look like a mother." So enchanted by this that I forgot to ask any of the obvious questions — What does a mother look like? Have I overdone it a bit

had to end in the late Seventies, having to be played at a whisper — a state of affairs from which my status at school never properly recovered.

In my twenties, the gulf between expectation and reality grew even wider. Months before the day, I would be putting together the sort of wish list that even Marie Antoinette might have considered a touch overdone: a Siamese kitten, a white hamster with red eyes, a star sapphire... The fellow I was going out with, meanwhile, made it his business to ignore my antics, as the grounds (many men, I have noticed, take this view) that the exchange of gifts on such occasions is a tyranny, and indeed a humiliation for the recipient. Also, one ought not to care about things.

Well, he was quite right, no doubt. And as I grow older, I move towards his view. Even so, I was a shade startled this year, on opening a promisingly bulky parcel from my mother (generally an inspired present-giver), to discover a brace of winceyete nighties. It was, I think, a sign. Henceforth, I shall shun up about my birthdays. It will mean no presents, of course, but it will also mean I shall never, ever have to admit to being 40.

Helpful hints from hearth and home



Patricia Roberts Cairns
Louisa Young
on the Good
Housekeeping
of 75 years ago

We do not house-keep any more. Housekeepers only exist in small ads in *The Lady*, not in every home in the land. "Housekeeper is not a job, and housewife is a derisory term," says Patricia Roberts Cairns, Editor of *Good Housekeeping*, 75 years old this year.

So isn't she ever tempted to change the title, with its anachronistic connotations? "No," she says, "because it doesn't mean anything now — it's a familiar brand. If it were launched now it would have a different name, but it was launched then and things were different."

Seventy-five years ago, a woman was either a house-keeper or employed someone to run her house for her. In 1922, the first issue of *Good Housekeeping* introduced itself thus: "There should be no more drudgery in the house. There must be time to think, to read, to enjoy life... The house-proud woman in these days of servant shortages does not always know the best way to lessen her own burdens."

And a good read it was, too. Early editors had a marvelously broad idea of what constituted housekeeping. Some of the content is obvious to us now; it is still the basic model of a women's magazine: "To have beauty around us... to have good food without monotony, and good service without jangled tempers... art, music, drama... a modern kitchen has been installed and there every recipe before being printed will be tested... a French fashion service... house decoration... wholesome fiction."

And an advert for Helena Rubinstein's beauty creams reminds us that "no one is able to make a home so desirable to live in or visit as a really pretty woman".

Then we have Lady Astor, MP, on the dangers of drink: "The interest of the liquor trade is to sell as much of its goods as possible. Yet no one would say that it was in the interest of the community to have the largest possible consumption of alcohol."

The excitable novelist Marie Corrill wrote about men's problems with "the new assertiveness of the creature that he has always considered his natural-born slave — Woman... She can, if she likes, do without him". And she advises (remember, this is 1922): "Women who desire to attain the fulfilment of the best that is in them, never to lend themselves to any exploitation by the 'low' press."

Clementine Dane, on the subject of divorce, pointed out that "those whom God had joined let no man put asunder". We must remember that God is

Good Housekeeping

SEPTEMBER 1957 · 2s.

ADVERTISING ARCHIVE

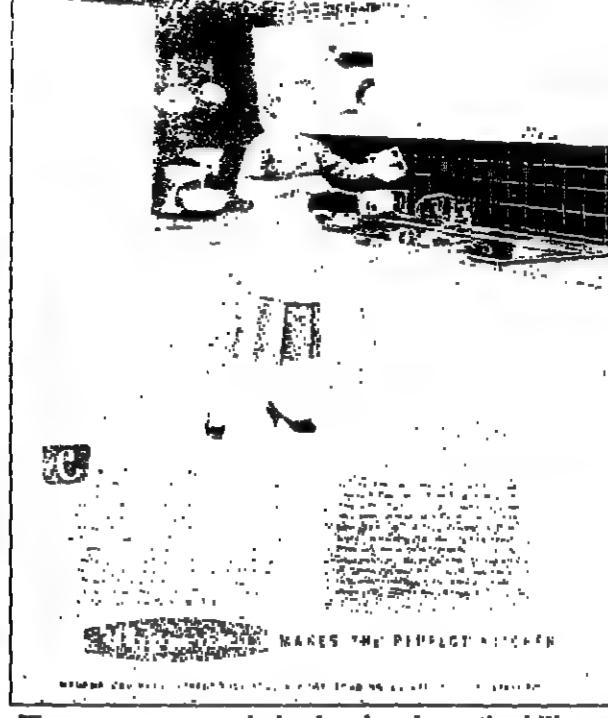
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First-job Clothes and Beauty

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HOW-TO-DO-IT
FURNISHING



The early dishwasher



Then, a woman was judged on her domestic ability...

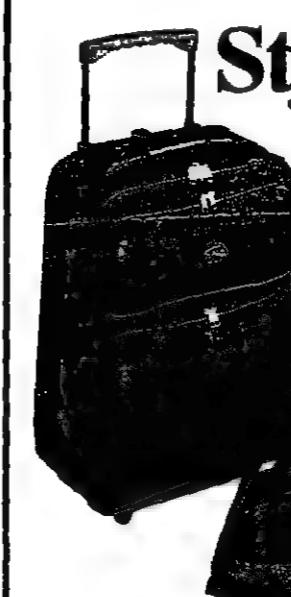
READ ON

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING has a lead of around 100,000 over its main competitors. Circulation is 440,655 with a readership of 2.2 million compared with its main rivals — *Sainsbury's The Magazine*, circulation 361,109 and *IPC Magazines' Ideal Home*, circulation 217,965. Other main rivals are *Woman and Home*, *Homes and Gardens* and *Family Circle* but *Home and Life*, delivered by the milkman, is a hot new competitor.

... now "housewife" is considered a derisory term

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES OFFER THE TIMES

Stylish trolley-case only £44.95 (saving £25 on mrrp)



Times readers are offered this stylish trolley-case for only £44.95 including free delivery and packing, a saving of £25 on the mrrp of £69.95. Specifically developed for today's business traveller and ideal for short breaks the Omega is designed for maximum use of space and with a telescopic low-handle, top and side carry handles and a wide base, it is extremely easy to transport.

The main compartment combines a two-fold

zipped outer section for hanging shirts, jackets, and skirts, with a spacious suitcase area for other items and two sets of packing straps.

Other features include four front zip pockets, two expanding, these being a folio section and an organiser compartment with purse/wallet pocket, pen loops, mobile phone holder, etc.

Made from a durable tear-proof fabric and available in black, the Omega trolley-case measures 36 x 54 x 23cm.

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ITEM	QTY	£/ITEM	Print Name _____ Expiry Date _____
OMEGA TROLLEY-CASE	1	£44.95	Signature _____ Date _____
Price includes postage and packing. TOTAL COST £44.95			
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If you do not wish to participate please tick box <input type="checkbox"/>			
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Pittu Laungani explains how the Islamic ritual of burial and grieving differs from the Christian

From wailful dirges to gentle tears

The nation mourns today as never before. The shock of Diana, Princess of Wales' death alongside Dodi Fayed's, and the subsequent anger, has been replaced by grief and a reluctant acceptance that life must continue without them.

Fayed's burial within 24 hours of his death conformed to Muslim tradition and his father, Mohamed Al Fayed, will find comfort in his faith — a faith imbued over the 14 centuries since Mohammad founded Islam.

Mr Al Fayed and, indeed, Muslims all over the world "know" that this joint death was fated. It was the will of Allah! *Insh'Allah!* God willed it so. And it is from this belief that the bereaved shall take sustenance and succour — a belief embedded in the psyche of nearly one billion Muslims spread across the world, which allows them to come to terms with and triumph over life's adversities. The belief is one of the strengths of Islam.

Fayed's body, in accordance with Islamic religious tradition, was brought back to England by his father. Islamic religious custom dictates that funeral rites shall be performed within 24 hours of death. The prophet Mohammed died on a Monday (June 8 AD 632) and was buried within 24 hours, and Muslims have taken his lead. The harsh heat of the Arabian deserts also necessitates a speedy disposal of a corpse.

The funeral ceremony of Muslims — Fayed's would have been no exception — is simple, a simplicity which makes it extremely moving. The body is laid out on a hard surface and washed. The ablutions are normally performed by the close members of the deceased, who also participate in the final interment of the body. In exceptional cases professionals are employed for the purpose.

As a rule, it is only men who wash a man's body, and women, a woman's body. The body is then shrouded from head to toe in at least three pieces of clean, white cloth, in such a way that the head

can be freed later on. Care is taken to ensure that there are no knots or any sewing on the cloth, because this might obstruct the liberation of the soul. Just before burial, a short ceremony takes place in the mosque or at the graveside, where relatives and friends gather to bid their private farewells to the deceased, forgiving and begging for forgiveness. This is followed by saying a prayer for the dead.

The burial is generally a man's affair, although in recent years women have started to accompany

'Islamic funerals are marked by spontaneity, Christian by concern for order and precision'

the funeral procession. Men invariably perform the final funeral rites.

At the graveside, the shrouded body is taken out of its coffin and lowered down with shawls and lengths of cloth. The corpse is turned towards the right, its face facing Mecca, its feet facing south. Wooden boards are placed on top of the body, and the grave is filled by all the mourners, to the accompaniment of verses recited from the Koran by the Imam. The mourners leave, the Imam stays behind, offering his final prayers for the departed soul. Islamic beliefs in an afterlife are founded on the notion of retribution and resurrection. The Koran speaks of the day of the Great Rising, *yau'm al-qiyamah*, when the Book of Deeds will be read, the heavens will open, the good will enter paradise and the wicked shall spend a life in hell.

While Islamic funerals are marked by their spontaneity and urgency, Christian funerals are dominated by concern for order,

precision and dignity. The service usually takes place a week or so after death and the family is consulted about the choice of readings and hymns. Dignity is maintained by keeping emotions strictly in check — behaviour that is virtually non-existent outside the Christian world.

The Muslim faith is unshakable. Among Christians there is room for dissent and occasional doubt, but the Muslim belief in the afterlife is indomitable. What actually happens to the body is open to interpretation in the Koran — some believe that the body corrupts and the spirit leaves it; others say that the body itself takes the spirit into the afterlife.

Reactions to the loss of loved ones do not always follow a known pattern among Muslims, but it is not uncommon for women to swoon, beat their breasts and scratch their faces. Their unrestrained grief may find an outlet in long-winded, wailful dirges, which are pierced from time to time by crying and shrieking.

On occasions, the services of a professional mourner, usually female, are sought to hasten the process of mourning. She takes it upon herself to talk of the deceased, sing mournful dirges, recite verses from the Koran and, with the consummate skill of a professional performer, persuades the bereaved members in the family to cry without restraint.

Today, as the Princess is lowered into her grave, there will be no need for a professional mourner. The tears of individuals from every denomination will be flowing.

• Dr Pittu Laungani is Reader in Psychology at South Bank University and co-editor of *Death and Bereavement Across Cultures* (1997, London, Routledge, £15.99).



A Muslim woman reads the Koran at her sister's grave. In recent years, women have started to attend the burial, once a male preserve

Credo

A time for us to mourn

Nigel McCulloch

Grief is a powerful emotion, and Shakespeare's advice in *Macbeth* remains true:

"Give sorrow words. The grief that does not speak Whispers the o'erfraught heart, and bids it break"

Today, a grief that has pierced the nation's heart will bind us together even more closely as we watch the final earthly journey of this people's princess.

The words spoken at the service in Westminster Abbey will help us to focus that grief and to come to terms with a tragedy that has affected everyone.

There is a real need for us to mourn, as the piles of flowers and cards, and the silent queues of young and old have so graphically shown. But the expressing of grief needs more than words. The music and ceremony, the majesty and simplicity that will shape this unique occasion will play their part in helping us to cope with our bereavement and to glimpse something of the hope that always lies beyond despair.

In the Old Testament, Ecclesiastes reminded us:

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven... a time to weep and a time to mourn and a time to dance."

The emotions of today touch deep wells of grief in many of us, not least through the memories, or present experiences, of weeping and mourning in the bereavements we suffer in our own families and friendships.

Now must we forget those for whom this day has long been planned as a time of joy — for a wedding or anniversary. For them there will be a tangle of emotions as the nation mourns one



McCulloch

"Shared tears" with our love and our prayers, asking that God give them courage and strength for today; and the comfort they will need for the proper expressing of their grief.

And finally we will commend Diana to God in sure hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Words adapted from the ancient Liturgy of St Chrysostom put our prayerful thoughts well:

"Grant her rest in the land of the living, in the joy of Paradise, whence all pain and grief have fled."

Tears do not come to order, but our innermost feelings need to find their natural expression. As the memory of today's service fades, it will be the spontaneous hugs, the compassionate touch, the shared tears — to which Diana gave such encouragement — that in her death will sustain and comfort us.

The Rt Rev Nigel McCulloch is the Bishop of Wakefield.

Choirs weave a rich musical magic

Ruth Gledhill hears a storming performance of Monteverdi's Vespers at the Three Choirs Festival in Hereford Cathedral



THE NIGHT before, as choral evensong came to an end, a freak whirlwind uprooted a 40ft sycamore in the grounds of Hereford cathedral. For our sell-out performance of Monteverdi's Vespers, the weather had calmed down outside. But inside the cathedral it was hot and steamy, and the glorious, crashing waves of this composition of vespers, the sixth of the seven canonical hours, seemed as much a tribute to the weather as to God.

As if weaving a musical version of a rich, red and gold Elizabethan tapestry, the choir of Gloucester, Worcester and Hereford, with soloists Catherine Bott, Charles Daniels, Simon Birchall and others, led by conductor Roy Goodman, sang the powerful Latin chant as it might have been performed when composed in 1610. *Nigra sum sed formosa filia Ierusalem*, we heard.

At times clearly vulnerable and unhappy, she never lost the ability and genuine desire to be alongside the weak and the marginalised — a beacon of light to those in despair.

To many she was indeed an ambassador of the love of God. We will surround her family, and especially the two young Princes, with our love and our prayers, asking that God give them courage and strength for today; and the comfort they will need for the proper expressing of their grief.

And finally we will commend Diana to God in sure hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Words adapted from the ancient Liturgy of St Chrysostom put our prayerful thoughts well:

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Hereford: a haven of music

Ideo dilexit me Rex et introduxit in cubiculum sumum et dixit mihi: Surge, amica mea, et vieni. Or: "I am a black but beautiful daughter of Jerusalem. So the King loved me, and led me in to his bedroom and said to me: Arise, my love, and come

away." The Vespers was a highlight of this year's Three Choirs Festival, the oldest musical festival in Europe, founded more than 250 years ago. Most of the people present were middle-aged or older, and might have been the parents of the choristers, or of the younger generations, deserting traditional music for the contemporary attractions of the Edinburgh Festival, taking place at about the same time.

We began with a prayer, followed by Psalm 110, *Dixit Dominus*, and then Psalm 113, *Laudate pueri*. "He makes a home for the barren woman, a joyful mother of children," we heard.

The Three Choirs Festival was founded by a chancellor of Hereford and is today an integral part of the life of the three cathedrals. The Dean and Chapter are on hand

throughout to chat and entertain visitors, many of which stay in the city throughout and attend many of the dozens of concerts, services and fringe events revolving around the cathedral at the centre.

But the church was not always so

hospitable. One former Dean of Hereford described it as "the abominable festival", and removed the key to the choir, thus preventing visitors from sitting in their favourite part of the cathedral. And on another occasion, at Worcester, the Dean and Chapter banned any productions not strictly worship. By the turn of the century, Elgar was involved and the support of the civic authorities rescued it from oblivion.

The festival is now facing the new challenges, such as secularism, and growing competition from other summer musical events. Yet Monteverdi's Vespers was sold out by spring this year, a sign that the demand for religious music in its traditional, ecclesiastical setting remains strong. Although more difficult to listen to and enjoy than modern church music or traditional Benedictine chant, this was part of what made it at the end a satisfying and rewarding experience.

• Hereford Cathedral, The Cloisters, Hereford HR1 3NG (01432 359882).

Church services tomorrow

Te lucis ante terminum (Stratford).

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch. Confot, O Lord (Crutch) Canon G Barber; 5 Ch E. Stanford in G, Rev Canon G Marshall.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, O H. The Cantor (Wood), Canon S Pelecy.

ELGIN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Bred. Weddi; 11 Bisch. The Dean: 3.15 Thanksgiving for Diana, Princess of Wales, Bishop of Bangor.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch. Missa collegium regale (Howells); 3.30 Ch E. Noble in B minor.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch E. O taste and see (Vaughan Williams); Ven J Barton: 4 Ch E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ave Maria (Rachmaninov), Canon Hall.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Euch. Canon E. Westell; 3.30 E.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40-8.15 HC; 9.15 Euch. Canon Alastair Rees; 3.30 Ch E. Canon John Simpson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch. Ave Maria (Rachmaninov); Ven J Barton: 4 Ch E. Rev Canon T Dennis.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Euch. Canon M. Bayliss; 3.30 Ch E. Rev Canon G. Williams.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch. Bread of heaven (Wadding), Canon C Hill; 3 Euch.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch. Canon D Knights Ch. Responses (Ross).

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch. The Bishop of Ludlow: 11.30 M. The Lord is King (Boyce); 3.30 E. Rev Canon G. Williams.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.30 Euch. Sunson in F. The Chancellor: 4 Ch E. The Precentor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Mass for three voices (Byrd). The Treasurer: 3.30 E. Canon S. Responses (Harris).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45-8.15 HC; 9.30 Euch. Canon G. Williams; 11.30 M; 12.15 Euch. Canon S. Responses (Ross).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45-8.15 HC; 10 Euch. The Dean: 11.30 Ch M. Te Deum in G (Sumison), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Ch E. Canon T Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch. How beautiful upon the mountains (Stainer), Rev M. Maddocks; 3.30 Ch E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Rev B Castle; 11 S Euch. Canon Ward; 6 E. St Paul's Service (Howells).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8.15 Euch; 10.30 S Euch. Canon J Atherton: 6.30 E. Let all the world in every corner sing

(Vaughan Williams).

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch. The Canon in Residence: 3.30 Memorial Service: Diana, Princess of Wales.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon M Shaw: 10 Ch M Euch, Canon G. Peart; 11.30 Ch Euch.

ST GENEVYSE CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8.15-8.45 HC; 9.30 Solemn Mass; 3 EP & Bred. Weddi; 11.30 Solemn Mass; 6 EP & Bred.

ST GILES CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 HC, Rev D K. Robertson: 11.30 M; Rev W P Graham: 3.30 Euch.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11.30 MS. Adoration of the Christ (Howell); Rev Canon G. Williams: 3.30 Euch.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 Memorial Service for Diana, Princess of Wales; 3.15 Ch E. Preveni us, O Lord (Byrd); Canon K. W. Cochran.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 9.30 S. Euch. Missa brevis (Britten); Rev J. Curthorn: 11.30 Ch Euch. Faubourdon (Moore).

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11.30 MS. Adoration of the Christ (Howell); Rev Canon G. Williams: 3.30 Euch.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SWI: 8 HC; 11.30 Euch; 3.30 Ch Euch.

ST MARY'S ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Enfield, Middlesex: 8 HC; 11.30 Euch.

ST MARY'S, Westminster, SW1: 8.30 HC; 11.30 Euch; Rev P. Cowell: 3 E. Canon G. Williams.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 11.45 Euch; Rev C. Herbert: 11.30 Ch M. Rev Canon G. Williams: 3.45 Euch.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 HC, 6.30 EP.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8.30 HC; 11.30 Euch; Rev T. Denman: 3.30 Euch.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 8.30 HC; 11.30 Euch; Rev P. Cowell: 3 E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 11.45 Euch; Rev C. Herbert: 11.30 Ch M. Rev Canon G. Williams: 3.45 Euch.

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Thirty years
after his
death, Che
lives on
Cuba - 20

THE TIMES TRAVEL

All-inclusive
deals may
stop the
nightmare
Car hire . 22



Searching for the ghost of Harry Lime



FACT FILE

- Oliver August travelled with the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).
- Getting there: Three nights at a three-star hotel with Austria Travel (0171-222 2430) costs £314 B&B in September, flying from Heathrow. Travelscene (0181-427 4445) has a similar deal from Gatwick for £350. Return flights in September from £220 with Austrian Airlines (0171-454 7300) and from £213 with British Airways (0345 222 1111), both from Heathrow. Landaus Air (0171-630 5924) flies from Manchester for £209 return or from Gatwick for £178. If you stay a Saturday night.
- Hotels: The five-star Sacher Hotel, Philharmonikerstrasse 4 (00 43 1 51450), has single rooms for £155 a night and doubles from £216; prices include breakfast and are valid until March.
- Trips to the *Third Man* sights, including Harry Lime's sewers at Friedensbrücke, are organised by Dr Brigitte Tümmermann and Dr Friederike Mayr (00 43 1 774 8900) for £7.90.
- Literary Vienna: *The Third Man*, by Graham Greene (Penguin £15.99). Other novels set there include *Selling Free the Bear* by John Irving, *The Last Waltz in Vienna* by George Clare, *The Sadder Summer of Samuel S* by J. P. Donleavy, *Mortality and Mercy in Vienna* by Thomas Pynchon.
- Concerts: Schubert, Haydn, Mozart and Strauss concerts are held in September and October; details from the tourist board (0171-629 0461); Vienna office: Kärntnerstrasse 39.
- Guides: *City Guide Vienna* (Lonely Planet Publications, £5.99); *Eyewitness Guide to Vienna* (Dorling Kindersley, £12).

Circle line: The Ferris wheel in the Prater, Vienna's amusement park. This was the scene of the memorable meeting between Lime and Martins in *The Third Man*, their only conversation in the film

Oliver August goes to Vienna to see if he can rekindle memories of Graham Greene's tale of *The Third Man*



RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE

Graham Greene famously changed the course of cinematography with a single sentence, scribbled on the flap of an envelope: "I had paid my last farewell to Harry a week ago, when his coffin was lowered into the frozen February ground, so that it was with incredulity that I saw him pass by, without a sign of recognition, among a host of strangers in the Strand."

Harry's full name is Harry Lime, played by Orson Welles in Sir Carol Reed's film *The Third Man*. Greene transposed the scene he had dreamt up in London from the Strand to postwar Vienna and created a haunting thriller as well as a treatise on morality and friendship. Unwittingly, Greene also wrote the best travel guide to Vienna, even if — or maybe because — it is 50 years out of date.

Half a century later, on another grey and chilly morning, I arrived in Vienna clutching a paperback copy of *The Third Man*. My interest in Greene's pre-Cold War drama had recently been reawakened by a small newspaper article. Hollywood apparently wanted to film an updated remake starring Jack Nicholson as Harry Lime and Tom Hanks as Rollo Martins, the friend who ends up hunting Lime after his funeral turns out to be a fake. So far, so good.

But imagine this. "The new version will be set in 1990s Berlin, not postwar Vienna, and instead of being involved in the penicillin racket, Harry Lime will use Russian child prostitutes to transfer

toxic materials to arms dealers," the article said. The new plot sounded horrific, but changing the venue was sacrilege. I headed to Vienna to discover why city and story are inextricably linked.

In 1947, Greene was strolling around the bombed-out city on a scouting trip arranged by the film producer Sir Alexander Korda and Carol Reed, the director. Greene spotted most of the locations for *The Third Man* on this first trip. His letters mention the cemetery, the sewers and the cafés, plus other places too seedy to feature in the sombre film.

He also witnessed the absurdity of the four-power administration of Vienna. Greene immortalised the postwar atmosphere of suspicion and fear in his descriptions of the four-power patrol vehicles, each staffed by a Russian, a French, an American and a British soldier.

Stripped to its roots and stumps by Allied bombings, Vienna revealed its true colours to Greene. Today the sleepy Austrian capital is cloaked in all the luxury drapery that came with peace and prosperity.

The Kärntnerstrasse today looks like Oxford Street minus the London buses. Wealthy, smartly dressed burghers push past the pristine wares. Capitalism wiped out the black market. A four-power domination of sorts, however, still exists. The scents are French, the toys German, the sports kit American, the underwear British. M&S sits directly opposite St Stephen's Cathedral.

I was looking for the one prop that the story of *The Third Man* could not do without — the hollow advertising kiosks, probably the

only public monuments left untouched by Allied bombings. These are 10ft-high circular billboards, and in *The Third Man* they had hidden doors that gave access to Vienna's labyrinthine sewerage system. Harry Lime used the sewers to get around the city undetected by the four-power patrols, wading knee-deep through the echoing tunnels. But the kiosks had disappeared along with the ruins and the rubble.

I desperately needed some local

expertise. Through the tourism bureau I found Elke Pittersberger, a charming guide in her late twenties. Thankfully, she shared my obsession with black-and-white 1940s celluloid. We exchanged titbits of wisdom about how Greene had only written the book as "raw material" for the film. *The Third Man* was never written to be read — only seen," she quoted Greene.

She took me to the Platz am Hof, where the Babenberg family, founders of the first Austrian empire, had resided. In the middle of the square we found the last remaining kiosk. I was euphoric — although I searched unsuccessfully for a secret door.

From there Elke took me right to the beginning of the story, to Lime's flat where Martins is told about Lime's funeral. The scene was filmed at the sumptuous Palavicini Palace opposite the famous Spanish Riding School. Waving my arms around, I inspected the

turn of the century thought nothing of decorating the entrance to the sewers in the same style as the Kaiser's residence.

In a vain attempt to reach the tunnel, Lime's inner sanctum of the underworld, I began to climb down a brick wall above a vantage point from where I was hoping to leap the last few yards. Elke had assured me that the airy tunnel did not smell despite the load it was carrying. "It's got wind," she had said, possibly aware of the pun. Greene even wrote: "The main stream smells sweet and fresh with a faint tang of ozone, and everywhere in the darkness is the sound of falling and rushing water."

I never reached it. By missing a step, I adorned the front of my shirt with layers of mud. I retreated to the café at the Hotel Sacher, where Martins had stayed — and where Greene himself was a guest when plotting his story. Looking through my imaginary director's diary, now a wet and filthy booklet, I concluded that my version of *The Third Man* would be a rather miserable film. The sewers were inaccessible, the moral dilemmas had gone and the streets had been rebuilt with no respect for the drama projected by postwar ruins.

On the brighter side, I had enjoyed a historical tour of Vienna long on thrills and short on travel guide histrionics. And, like Martins, I had met a beautiful Viennese woman. Carrying Greene's paperback guide to Vienna, I wandered off, humming Anton Karas's haunting melody from the film.



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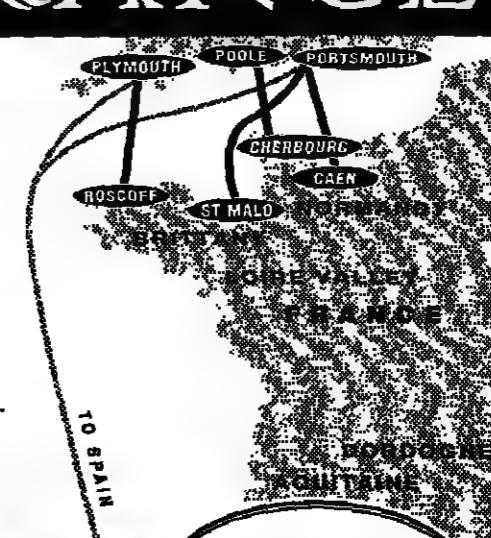
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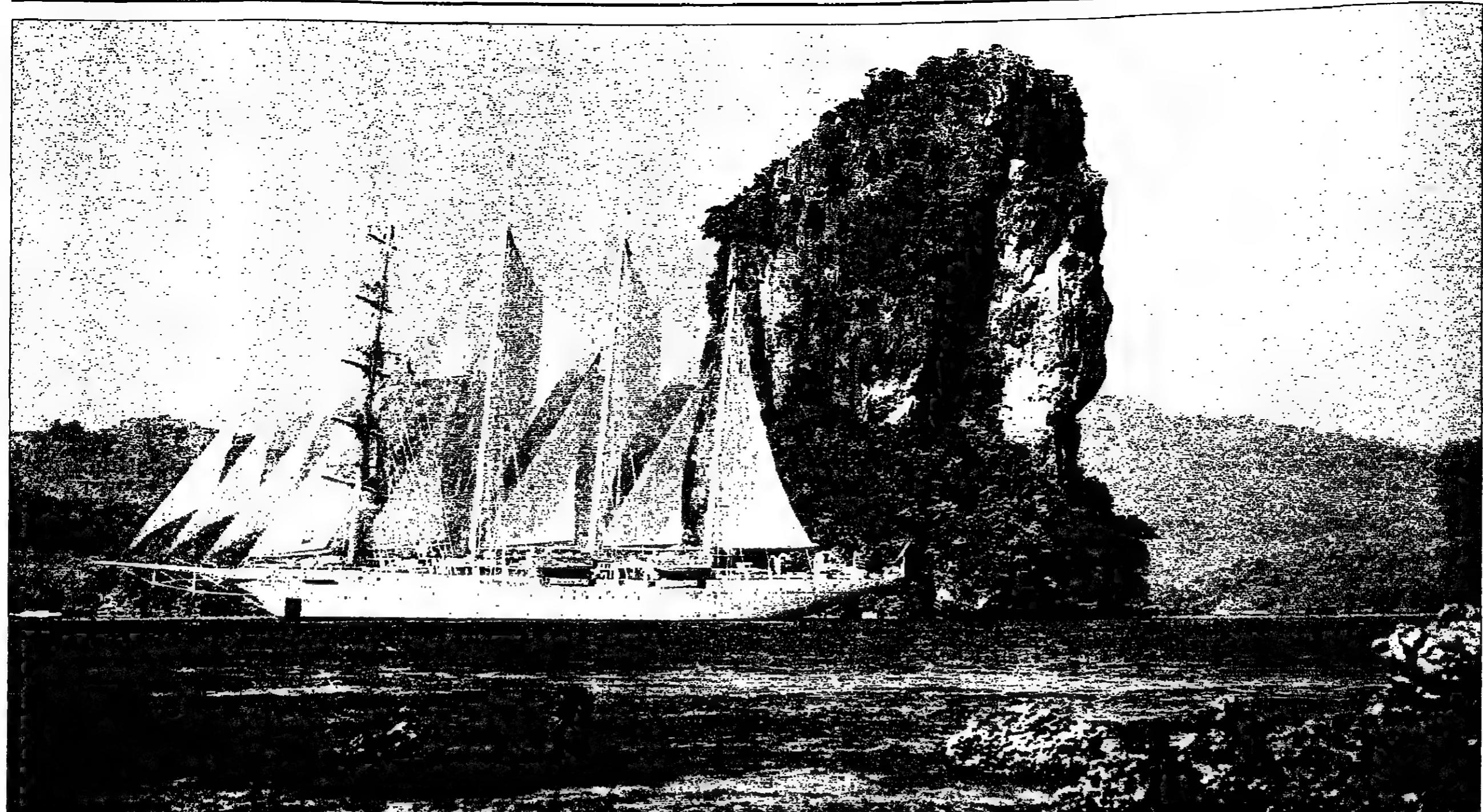
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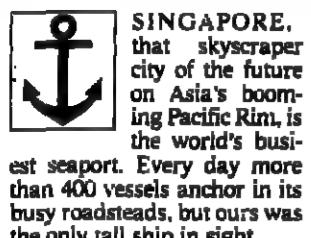


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The Holiday Fleet



The Star Flyer is an unforgettable sight as it plays hide-and-seek among the islands of Phangnga Bay. The teeth and tusks of the Andaman Sea, these unearthly islands rise from the waves like the summits of a drowned continent

Whispers of sails and tropical secrets



SINGAPORE. that skyscraper city of the future on Asia's booming Pacific Rim, is the world's busiest seaport. Every day more than 400 vessels anchor in its busy roadsteads, and ours was the only tall ship in sight.

The order came to hoist sail. The northeast monsoon wind was blowing, little more than a languid tropical night breeze, but enough to take us out into the vast harbour, its horizon ringed with ship's lights. Our topgallant sails shone ghostly white in the moonlight, but this was no phantom from the days of Conrad. She was the *Star Flyer*, a four-masted barquentine, built in Belgium only six years ago.

Since then she has been steadily expanding her horizons, from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean. Now she has gone the extra mile, to cruise the Far Eastern waters of the Malacca Straits and the Andaman Sea, from Singapore to Phuket, in Thailand.

With all 16 sails set to catch every last nuance of the monsoon breeze, the 2,556-tonne *Star Flyer* is everyone's dream of a tall ship. From stem to stern she measures 360ft. Her main mast is 220ft tall — taller than Nelson's column — marking her and her sister ship, *Star Clipper*, the tallest tall ships the world has ever seen.

In her lines and sail plan, she is no different from the hard-driving clippers that battered around Cape Horn at the turn of the century, but there the similarity ends. From end to end she is suffused with high-tech nautical gizmos.

Cruising aboard the *Star Flyer* offers what the travel trade likes to call "soft adventure", with the accent on soft.

Certainly there is nothing spartan about her air-conditioned cabins, twin swimming pools, fine dining and smooth-as-silk service.

Yet even in the millpond

conditions of the Andaman Sea, the thrill of sailing on a tall ship is undeniable. This is not your average, impersonal floating hotel. There are a maximum of 170 passengers, far fewer than any cruise ship. Lie out under her bowsprit in the "widows' nets" with the waves beneath and a cloud of canvas above, and you recognise her for what she is: a living, breathing being.

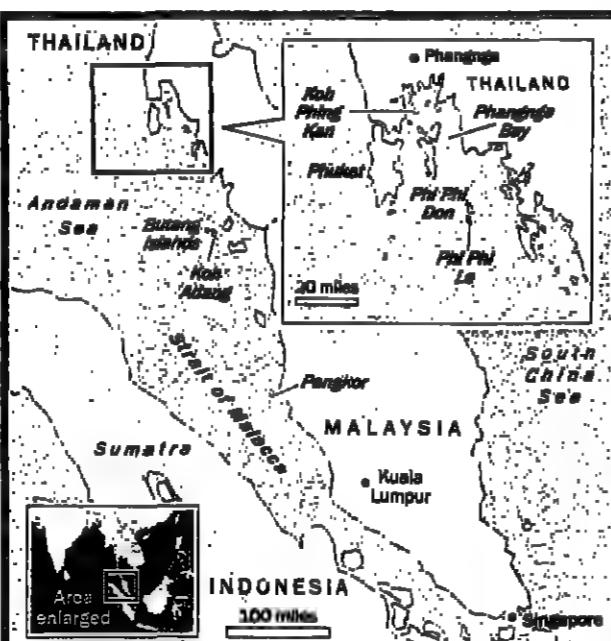
And who better to be the master of her soul than Captain Charisma, alias Gerhard Lickfett, the last man in the German Merchant Navy to be trained on a working square rigger. Dressed in immaculate tropical whites, with his lean good looks and thousand-mile stare, Captain Lickfett and the *Star Flyer* are a perfect marriage.

Born in Gdańsk in 1937, he escaped from wartime Germany just ahead of the Russians, travelling by horse and cart with his mother and six siblings to find safety in a Danish refugee camp. But the day that truly changed his life came ten years later, when he saw the four-masted barque *Pamir* heading down the English Channel under full sail. Within weeks he had signed on as a deck boy aboard her sister ship, the *Passat*.

Morning found us cruising north through the Malacca Straits in a sea so calm that I could see flying fish dancing on their tails over its polished surface. To the east, jungle-clad islands rose from the water like the dorsal fins of giant fishes, with the Malay peninsula beyond.

At their narrowest point these waters are about 20 miles across. On the Malaysian side the navigation chart warns of 13-metre sand waves, a treacherous maze of shifting banks. On the Sumatran side, countless fish traps march out from the mangrove channels;

A cruise aboard the *Star Flyer* combines the thrill of sailing the world's tallest ship with the pleasures of a romantic cruise, says Brian Jackman



and in between lies the world's busiest shipping lane, linking the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea.

Pangkor was our first landfall. A Malaysian island of coral sand beaches where fish

rainforested hillsides. Once, this was a pirates' lair; now fishing and tourism are Pangkor's mainstays.

One of the joys of cruising aboard the *Star Flyer* is her ability to visit places that other cruise ships cannot reach. In



the Butang Islands, one of Thailand's most remote archipelagos, we were ferried ashore by Zodiac inflatable dinghy to the deserted Koh Adang. Here, Crusoes for the day, we went beachcombing for cowrie shells, padding barefoot across drifts of sand as soft as talc, snorkelling among swarms of reef fish.

The colours of these tropical seas are beautiful beyond belief: emerald clear in the day, we went beachcombing

in the deeps. Yet no matter how romantic our surroundings, the *Star Flyer* enhanced every anchorage we visited. Outlined against a backdrop of jungle-clad hills, the sight of her white hull and four yellow masts never failed to stir the imagination.

Anchored off the Thai island of Phi Phi Don, she lay beneath sheer limestone cliffs in a bay as green as Chinese jade, while traditional Thai longtail boats with Viking-style prows and noisy outboards pattered around us, heading for the tourist beaches.

Six years ago, said Captain Lickfett, Phi Phi Don was almost as deserted as Koh Adang. Of course, it could not last. It was simply too beautiful to remain unknown forever. Today it has package hotels, reggae bars and beachside restaurants, but prices are still reasonable.

The starlit supper of spicy Thai seafood — fish soup with lemon grass, curried prawns, grilled kingfish cooked with ginger — still costs less than £6 a head.

No wonder these islands are such a hit with the backpackers. On Phi Phi's beautiful Long Beach, I spoke to a couple of young Danes sunbathing outside their rented wooden hut. "To stay here costs just 125 baht (£2.25) a night," one told me. "I never knew paradise could be so cheap."

Across the water I could see a smaller island, Phi Phi Le, renowned for the industry even more lucrative than tourism. Here, in limestone caverns the size of cathedral naves, millions of swallows cluster and climb to their nests for Chinese bird's-nest soup. So highly prized is this bizarre delicacy that the best nests can fetch \$2,000 (£1,250) a kilo in Hong Kong, and the caves are guarded by gunmen.

Next day we took to the Zodiacs again to photograph the *Star Flyer* as she played hide-and-seek among the islands of Phangnga Bay, near Phuket. In what must surely be the world's most beautiful cruising grounds. These unearthly islands, the teeth and tusks of the Andaman Sea, rise from the waves like the summits of a drowned continent.

In places their weather-stained cliffs have been undercut by the sea or pierced by dripping caves encrusted with stalactites; and in the heat haze which paints everything a hundred shades of blue, the bay has the dreamlike quality of a willow pattern landscape.

James Bond Island since *The Man with the Golden Gun* was filmed there.

But I preferred our visit to Koh Pannyi, a Muslim fishing village built on stilts, like a scene from *Lord Jim* with narrow boardwalks in place of streets, winding unsteadily between a warren of houses where huge Ali Baba jars caught rainwater from the tin roofs and boated cats hunted for leftovers among the restaurant tables.

Back on board the *Star Flyer*, we set sail for Phuket, our final port of call. As always, this manoeuvre was accompanied by the *Vangelis* theme music from the *Columbus* film, 1992, broadcast over the ship's loudspeaker.

Somehow it transformed every departure into a *coup de theatre* in which every passenger had a walk-on part. Even now its refrain haunts me, and I remember looking back at the ship for the last time, Captain Charisma still standing at the head of the gangway, his hands pressed together in the Thai farewell.

The Caribbean is no longer the only port of call; South America, the Far East, the South Pacific and Antarctica add their names to the list of destinations

Evade the Great British winter on a cruise this year, and you will find that the world, as Arthur Daley might say, is your lobster.

An influx of new ships during the past decade has left the Caribbean highly competitive and even passé. Winter cruise options have now expanded beyond the Caribbean and Canary Island runs to farther-flung destinations such as the Far East, South America, the South Pacific and even Antarctica.

Nevertheless, sun-seekers also in search of affordable fun and relaxation cannot do much better than the Caribbean. The ratio of fun to relaxation, however, varies from ship to ship.

The "party ships" of Carnival Cruise Line (0171-729 1929) place the emphasis on frolics: pool parties, discotheques, jazzy entertainment and facilities of skyscraper dimensions. They won't break the bank, either. The Airtours brochure on Florida and the Caribbean (01706 232323) features 14-night cruise

Where to shrug off the winter blues

and-stay holidays, combining a week all-inclusive in the Dominican Republic with a week aboard Carnival's *Inspiration*, from £1,124 in December including flights.

More sophistication is offered by Carnival's Holland America Line, Norwegian Cruise Line, which has the former liner *SS Norway* as its flagship, Celebrity Cruises (famed for its Roux-designed menus), Royal Caribbean International (stylishly designed big ships), and P&O-owned Princess Cruises, which retains a British ambience despite attracting large numbers of Americans.

Norwegian Cruise Line (0800 181560), which offers Caribbean fly-cruises from £1,745 for nine nights, and Celebrity Cruises (0171-412 0290), whose Caribbean fly-cruises are from £1,571 for nine nights, are the only lines that keep to Caribbe-

an or Panama Canal runs in the winter months.

Princess Cruises (0171-800 2468) offers 15-day "Tropical Combination" Caribbean fly-cruises from San Juan aboard its newest ship, the 1,950-passenger *Dawn Princess*, from £2,195.

It also offers 17-day fly-cruises around Latin America, calling at Chile, the Falkland Islands, Argentina and Uruguay, from £2,745, and cruises around the Far East, Australia and India.

Royal Caribbean (01932 820230) has 16, 17 and 18-day cruises of the Far East this winter, alongside a huge range of Caribbean itineraries. Far East fly-cruise prices start at £2,699 for 16 days in November; Caribbean fly-cruises start at £1,499 for nine days (departing November 29 and December 14).

All fares quoted are per person, as published in the brochures, based on a minimum-grade outside cabin, since most people prefer a sea view. Port taxes, where charged separately, have been added.

The inside cabins are cheaper, and nowadays pay the brochure price for a cruise — check Teletext for late-availability offers or check with the lines for details of discounts.

The Pricebreakers system of Princess Cruises offers discounts to passengers who book early, while Royal Caribbean has a "breakthrough" system which twitches prices according to availability. Other lines have similar schemes.

Both Thomson Holidays (0990 502562) and Airtours (01706 232323) have ships in the Caribbean this winter, and offer good cruises on a

budget. Thomson has 14-night cruise-and-stay holidays combining a week in the Dominican Republic with a week on either Norwegian Cruise Line's *Emerald*, from £1,199 and £1,098 respectively.

The cruise-and-stay options of Airtours include a combination based in Barbados from £1,194, with a seven-day cruise on Airtours' *Carousel*.

At the other end of the price scale is the four-mast sailing ship *Wind Song* of Windstar Cruises. The 148-passenger ship, based in Costa Rica from December until April, will be operating seven-day South American cruises with enormous wildlife-spottting potential. It may cost £2,122 per week excluding flights, but this ship is extremely smart. Perks include in-cabin CD players; past passengers include David



Where will you drop anchor?

Sept 6 1997

Andy Martin visits Austin, the Texan state capital — a haven for dreamers, music lovers and barflies

ROBERT HARDING PICTURE LIBRARY

Utopia for hot licks and no hicks

Austin may be the state capital of Texas, but the only stetson I saw during my whole week there was on the head of Bill Clinton, who turned up at a re-election rally. I doubted whether this uncool headgear would win him many votes in this style-conscious city.

America is divided into two, a French sociologist once said: on the coasts everyone is thin and drives small cars; and in the middle everyone is fat and drives big cars. New York and Los Angeles are hip; everywhere in between is Hicksville.

On the basis of that old stereotype (which admittedly a lot of Americans themselves share), landlocked Austin is often referred to, by its residents, as the third coast of the United States, so far removed is it from the Hicksville image.

Almost entirely devoid of cattle, oil and cowboys, it has long been rated as one of the live music capitals of the world by the cognoscenti, and Austin's popularity with the film industry is fast making it an alternative Hollywood — the annual Austin Film Festival is held next month.

The primary reason for my visit — I was studying at the American History library on the University of Texas campus — was to do some archival detective work on the attempts of a group of European settlers in the 19th century to create a Texan utopia.

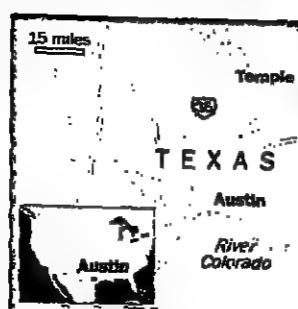
The Europeans had settled on the hills outside the then-new town of Dallas, 200 miles north of Austin, but their utopian dreams (and lack of practical skills — they had more violinists in their group than farmers) proved no match for that town's entrepreneurial zeal.

Perhaps they would have had more luck at turning their dreams into reality had they come to Austin, which is so much more receptive to intellectuals and dreamers.

I led a Jekyll-and-Hyde existence, poring over books and manuscripts by day, and emerging by night on my own quest for utopia, doing my best research in the bars and cafes of the city.

The university campus itself is enormous — you need a bus or a car to get around it. My desk looked out on an immense cement sarcophagus where the Sixties are buried — the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum.

After studying in the library, I would visit the museum for its tour of the decade via a replica of the Oval Office, several floors of red document boxes (visible behind a glass wall), and absolutely no mention of the theory (which I heard a hundred times in



Dallas) that LBJ was part of the conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

But some part of the Sixties lives on in the city, where every bar and restaurant in town boasts a live band or singer. Where should I start with this embarrassment of riches?

"Depends on what you like," Scott, a campus *marachi* with a guitar looped over his shoulder, told me. "You want plain old country, you go to the Broken Spoke. But you've got blues, jazz, fusion, experimental, Mexican, crossover, psych-rockabilly..."

"OK, but what is 'psych-rockabilly' anyway?" I asked, baffled by the multiplying genres.

"It's like rockabilly," he replied, "but on drugs."

I caught a bus downtown. "How much to Sixth Street?" I asked the driver. "About \$40," he replied, "depending on how much you drink."

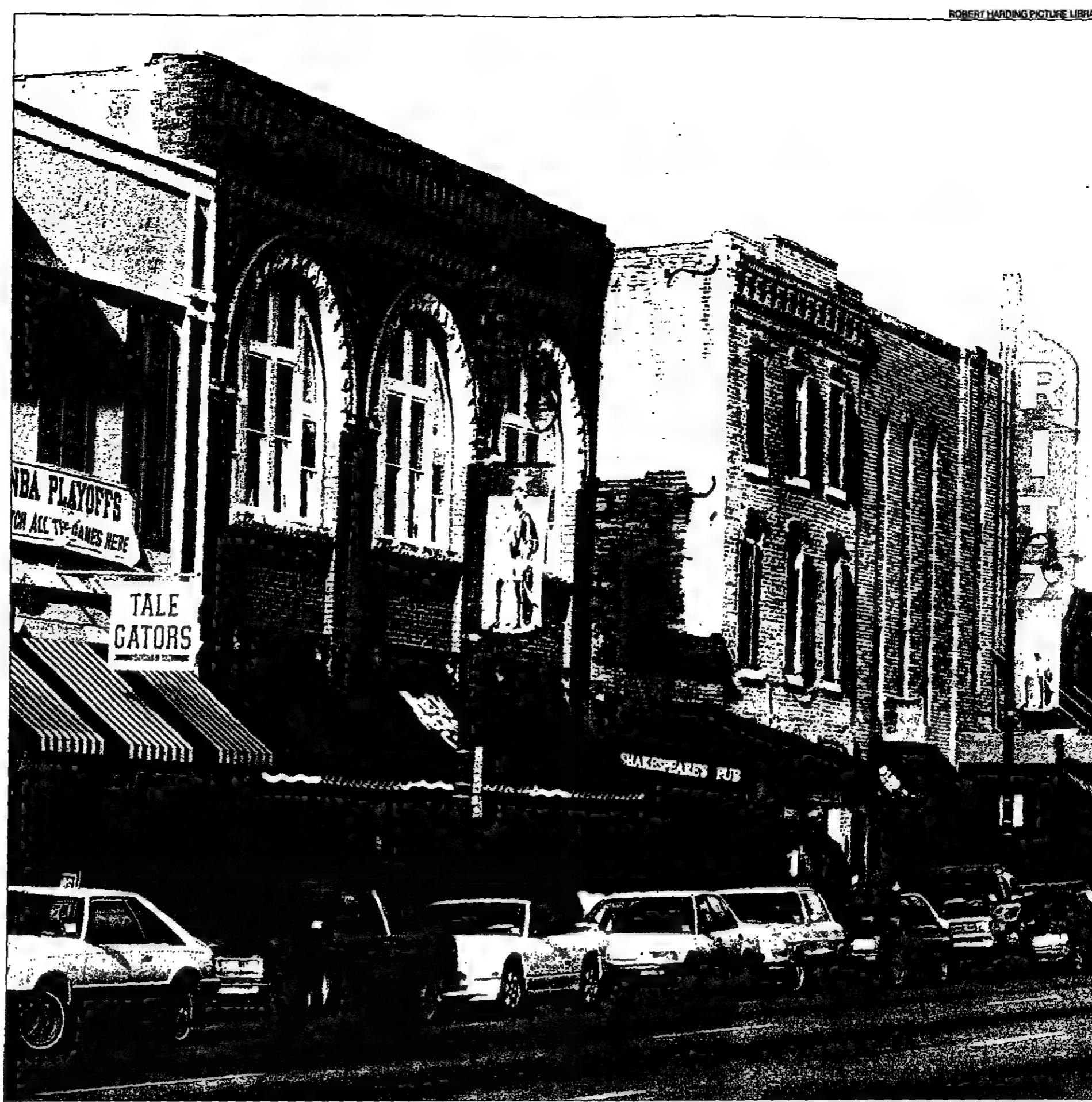
Sixth Street is a solid strip of sound, mixed with margaritas. Music bursts out of doorways and pours down off rooftops. But although essential, Sixth Street is almost too popular if you want to be really hip.

So one night I took in the Continental Club on South Congress, a Fifties-style bar (which really dates from the Fifties) with a Sixties-style group: "The Friends of Dean Martinez" rocking on stage. The joint was already jumping at 7pm, and it carried on rocking into the small hours.

Another night I ended up at the Cactus Café where Darden Smith, a tall, strong local boy, was crooning his bittersweet "folk rock" (not "psycho", I think).

Not only was he nothing like a cowboy country and western singer, he even had a song about being a vegetarian who hates barbecues. I liked the guy so much I put him in my pocket and took him home with me in the shape of one of his "Trouble No More" cassette.

The Cactus Café is on colourful Guadeloupe Street, where campus spills over into town. The imposing Church of Scientology was offering a free stress test on the other side of the street.



The stretch of bars and clubs along Sixth Street produces a solid strip of sound, mixed with margaritas. Music bursts out of doorways and pours down off rooftops*

"Do you suffer from stress very much?" said the smiling evangelist as he hooked me up to something like a lie detector.

"I hoped you were going to tell me that," I said.

"OK," he said, "what kinds of things stress you?"

"Stress tests apparently," I said, my stress-response meter going through the roof. He assured me that a copy of *Dianetics* by L. Ron Hubbard would solve all my problems, but I sought more immediate treatment in Dr Quackenbush's Intergalactic Café, just down the road, where they make the best coffee in town and even have a roomy "loafing lounge".

Here a girl with black lipstick maintained that I was an American actor, and was only faking my English accent. Nothing I could say would persuade her otherwise.

But this was not too surprising in a city so popular with the film fraternity. Austin may

once have been associated with the Seventies horror film *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, which was filmed here, but the cult 1991 film *Slacker*, shot around the University of Texas campus, is rather more in keeping with the city's contemporary ethos, chronicling the aimless lives of a disparate group of Austin students, musicians, café philosophers, wandering minstrels such as Scott, and the dispossessed underemployed.

Today Quentin Tarantino organises his own impromptu film festival whenever he passes through, showing horror and gangster films till dawn, and there was even a rumour that Steven Spielberg was planning to move in.

"God, I just hope Woody Allen doesn't come here too," said Julia Null Smith from the Texas Film Commission. "He'll never leave!" I could see her point.

This is an intellectual's city, where I kept running into brain-drained English academics. According to the American Booksellers' Association, Austin's citizens buy more books than any others in America, at its 70 bookstores.

In contrast with Dallas, Austin does not have a brash glass skyline, nor does it want one. Strict planning controls keep it that way. Dallas was the city *par excellence* of the Eighties. Austin is much more Nineties: understated, mostly brick and wood. It doesn't try to sell itself and doesn't need to.

When I flew out from Dallas, that city came as something of a culture shock after Austin, but it also restored my faith in stereotypes.

Joe drove me from the airport in his "Cowboy Cab" car, recommending a hot club with a wet T-shirt and shortest shorts show on the way. When I told him I was going to Paris soon, he said he would sure like to see the Leaning Tower of Pizza one day.

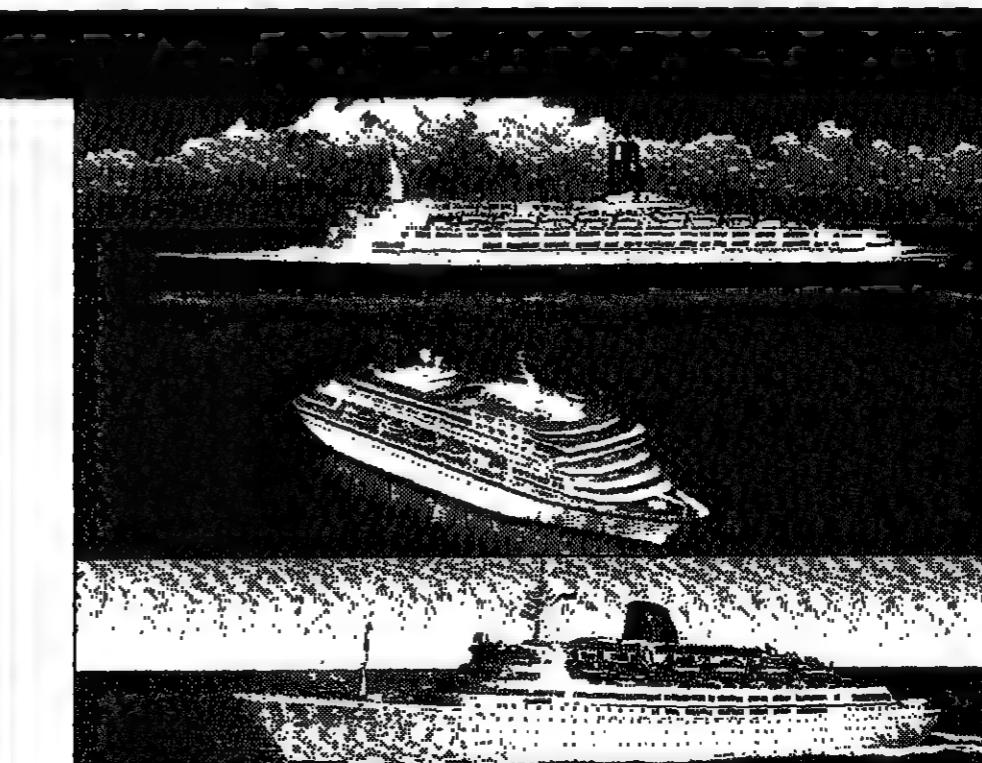
As the conversation continued, the dialogue grew more surreal, as driver Joe told me: "Go too fast here and the police'll take you straight to jail — less, you can talk 'em out of it real fast."

"You mean something like 'my wife's going to have a baby'?"

"Well, congratulations! Do you wanna boy or a girl?"

"Joe, that was just a hypothesis."

"A hypothesis? You just want to keep it a surprise, don't you now?"



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The fall of communism has added many new destinations to the tourist map, say Cath Urquhart and Joanna Hunter



The hammer and sickle used to be a sign that tourists were not welcome, but not any more

DYLAN MARTINEZ

The Cuba Libre might be a blend of rum, cola and ice but today the name sounds more like a metaphor for change. Cuba might not be entirely *libre*, but its attitude towards the tourist dollar has certainly loosened up, as the dozens of charter flights heading into Havana now testify.

Cuba is not alone. Around the world, once-strict socialist, communist, and even totalitarian states are now opening to visitors. Here's our guide to the only political party that spans the globe: the Holiday Party.

ARMENIA

Travellers rarely ventured into the smallest Soviet republic but since the collapse of the USSR, tourism has slowly taken off, with determined visitors attracted to its churches and mountain scenery.

Sunvil (0181-568 4499) has places on a ten-night tour of the country, departing September 13, and visiting Etchmiadzin, Sardarabad, Lake Sevan, Garni and Geghart. The trip costs £964 including flights via Amsterdam, accommodation in a three-star hotel in Yerevan, and excursions.

BERLIN

Since the wall came down, the city has become one of Europe's trendi-

No borders for tourists

est, and it will take an even more important role after it becomes the German capital in 1999.

City break specialist Time Off (0990 846363) offers deals such as a two-night break, flying to Berlin with British Airways from Heathrow or Gatwick, for £310, including B&B at a three-star hotel, transfers and taxes. Price valid until the end of October.

MONGOLIA

Free market reforms are slowly taking hold and red tape is being cut back, making visits much easier.

Steppes East (01285 810267) offers trips including the Riding With Eagles tour. Sightseeing in the capital, Ulan Bator, is combined with several days' horseback riding in the west of the country, where you meet Kazak eagle hunters. The two-week trip costs from £2,270 including accommodation (in gers), Mongolian

travellers, when in the countryside, all meals, flights and transfers, and is available between June and October 1998.

NORTH KOREA

It is all but closed to the West but those determined to see North Korea can call Regent Holidays (0117 921 1711), which offers a ten-night trip to China and North Korea, including flights to Beijing, two nights in the Chinese capital, train ticket to North Korea's capital Pyongyang, accommodation, all meals and tours there, and costs £1,905 departing on October 9, and £1,820 departing on November 15.

VIETNAM

The communists are still in power, but thanks to *doi moi* — Vietnam's version of perestroika — they now welcome tourists with open arms.

Asia World Travel (01483 730808) offers tailor-made itineraries

between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, as Saigon is now known: an eight-night visit, including flights to Vietnam and two internal flights, a private driver and guide accommodation and all meals costs £1,620.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Tourists are returning to Croatia's beaches, and this winter the first British holidaymakers will again be able to ski in Serbia.

A week's skiing at Kopaonik with Thomson, with half board at the Hotel Grand, leaving Gatwick on December 27, costs £495 excluding ski pass and hire of ski equipment. For ski holiday bookings, call 0990 329320 (group bookings 0990 502300).

ZANZIBAR

The island is now a mellow haven but it was formerly known as the Cuba of Africa.

Somak (0181-423 3000) offers various holidays on Zanzibar, flying with Kenya Airways via Nairobi or Mombasa. Five nights B&B, flights and transfers, cost £835-£904, depending on accommodation chosen, departing between December 15 and January 3.

■ All prices quoted are per person, based on two sharing a room.

COLORIFIC

Cuba, where one man is an island

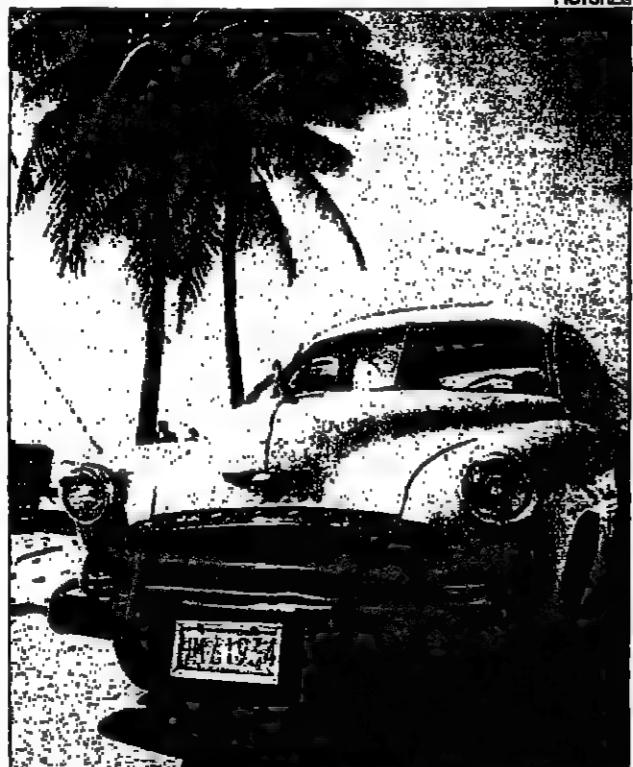
Castro rules, but Che Guevara is the face you see everywhere. By Jo Foley

There is hardly a surface in Havana — or, for that matter, throughout Cuba — that has not at some time or another been decorated, stamped or adorned with the face of one man. Whether it's a T-shirt, a beermat or a municipal monument, the face that launched a million postcards, the face of Che Guevara, looks out at you.

It is one of the great faces of the 20th century — wild, romantic, iconic. The revolutionary spirit personified. How appropriate then, that almost 30 years after his execution in Bolivia, Che's remains were unearthed earlier this summer and returned for a hero's burial in Cuba. The anniversary of his death falls on October 9, and there are plans to move his remains to a mausoleum next month. For if Che's former colleague and comrade-in-arms, Fidel Castro, is the president and the head of this, the Caribbean's largest island, Che is the face of Cuba.

Indeed, it is one of the first sights you see, as you drive from Havana's international airport into the city. In the Plaza de la Revolución, one of those vast squares built simply for showing off weapons, armories or manoeuvres, it is not the size of it that grabs your attention, nor the huge phallic monument at its centre, but to one side, on the wall of the eight-storey Ministry of Internal Affairs, a wrought iron image of that face, the full height of the building.

And for a country still feeling its way towards tourism and a tentative embrace of capitalist principles, the ro-



Fifteen American cars can be hired — but hire a driver too

mance of Che is exactly what Cuba needs. For if you couple the romantic yearnings of the late 20th century with the desire to find a relatively unspoilt island and a people who know how to have fun, you have a winning formula.

The infrastructure is getting better, mostly because of the huge investments pouring in from Canada and Central America. Vast new hotels are being built on the coast at Varadero, about 90 miles to the east of Havana — many built on all-inclusive lines, so visitors need not pay extra for food, drinks or watersports. But, despite the building work, the beach at Varadero, 11 miles of soft, white, powdery sand and calm sea, is big enough not to feel crowded.

Most visitors divide their time between Varadero — once the holiday home of Al Capone — and Havana. Indeed, links with the mob and the more muscular side of American gangsterism are all around. Che's car is here, too, in the city's Automobile Museum in Old Havana — having narrowly survived being driven by Jeremy Clarkson on his *Motorworld* programme on BBC2 last Monday. It's a '59 Chevrolet, green with a cream roof — some cool dude.

Che's car is here, too, in the city's Automobile Museum in Old Havana — having narrowly survived being driven by Jeremy Clarkson on his *Motorworld* programme on BBC2 last Monday. It's a '59 Chevrolet, green with a cream roof — some cool dude.

Old Havana, with its narrow streets, beautiful houses,



The wild, romantic and iconic Che Guevara was executed 30 years ago next month, yet his face still adorns T-shirts, beermats and postcards

■ Jo Foley travelled to Cuba with Kuoni (01306 742222), which offers deals including a six-night escorted Discover Cuba tour to visit Havana, Faro de L'Uma, Trinidad, Sancti Spiritus, Rancho Hacienda and La Granjita, from £609 per person between September 20 and October 31. Departures are Thursdays and Saturdays.

■ The Discover Cuba tour, followed by seven nights on the beach at Varadero, costs from £925 per person between those dates. November 1 and December 14, the Discover Cuba tour starts at £959, and with the extra week, prices start at £999. Prices are based on two people sharing a room and include meals while on tour, and half board on the beach.

■ A six-night two-centre holiday, with three nights in Havana and three nights in Varadero, costs from £553 per person from September 20 to October 31, including accommodation, flights from Gatwick, transfers and breakfast.

■ When to go: Cuba's relatively even climate — temperatures are in the mid-30s for most of the year — means that there is no bad time to visit, although humidity is higher in summer. December to April are the most popular months, with European visitors seeking winter sun and resorts can get very crowded around Christmas and Easter.

and the T-shirts, you can find work by good local artists.

And you will need to stop for refreshment. What Che Guevara did for the poster industry, Ernest Hemingway did for alcohol sales. Two of the great 20th-century drinks emanate from old Havana via Papa H: the mojito — a concoction of light rum, lime, mint, ice and soda in a long glass — which he took in the mornings, and the daiquiri which he favoured for the rest of the day. To drink the former, he frequented the Bodeguita, a cafe-bar in Old Havana, with such cronies as Errol Flynn and occasionally

■ Health: Immunisation against hepatitis A, typhoid, polio and tetanus is recommended, but consult your doctor.

■ Red tape: A tourist card (costing £15) is necessary for British passport holders and can be issued by tour operators or through the Cuban Consulate in London (for details phone 0891 880820; calls will be charged at 50p per minute).

■ Money: You will be able to carry out every transaction in US dollars or Cuban convertible pesos, which have the same value as dollars. Do not be tempted to use the local currency, the nonconvertible peso or moneda nacional. Most credit cards are accepted in hotels and shops, but not those issued by American banks.

■ Books: *Cuba* (Lonely Planet, £11.99); *The Traveller's Survival Kit Cuba* (Vacation Work Publications, £9.99); *Islands in the Stream* by Ernest Hemingway (Flamingo, £6.99); *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, which is based in and around the small fishing town of Cojimar (Arrow, £3.99); *Cuba and the Night* by Peter Teyler (Quartet, £6).

■ Further information: Send a large stamped, addressed envelope to The Cuban Tourist Board, 167 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PA (0171-240 6652).

Fidel. For the daiquiri, a mix of rum, lime and crushed ice, he favoured the Floridita, the bar he described in *Islands in the Stream*. So delighted were the proprietors by his imitations that a section of the bar is adorned with his pictures.

Food, on the other hand, is still quite limited. But in a country where the residents are still on rations, it is not surprising. Menus are limited to fish, pork and chicken, served with rice and salad. In a flirtation with a free market economy, there are a number of private restaurants, known as paladeres, licensed by the government. Each licence allows them to feed up to 12 people. They are difficult to find, but ask the bellboy at your hotel or a taxi driver and you could end up, as I did, in their aunt's garden being served home-cooked food rather than mass-produced buffet fare, plus wine or beer for about \$12 (£7.50) a head.

In one of those quirks of logic, US dollars are acceptable currency for almost everything, but any credit card or cheque issued by an American bank is not. Make sure, though, that you have plenty of dollars or any other credit card when you visit one of the city's cigar factories. For you can buy Cohibas or Montecristos at prices which would make strong men weep: a box of 10 Montecristos, for example, cost \$40 (about £25) in

Havana, while each cigar costs around £10 in Britain.

Then there is the music. Wherever you go, you hear salsa, cha-cha, son — local folk music — and rumba, a marriage of African drums and Spanish melodies. Every town and village has a cafe-bar where musicians play and people dance. Cubans dance everywhere — visit the Palacio de la Salsa for late night fun or watch the professionals in eye-watering tight sequinned costumes at the Tropicana nightclub on the outskirts of Havana. Buy a tape of the music to take home, some rum — and, of course, a Che T-shirt.

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AMERICA: All-in deals are replacing complicated and costly car hire policies, writes Tom Chesshyre

Wave goodbye to insurance woes

Now sir, there is the option of SLI cover to go with your LDW — we recommend it. And there's also PAI for your personal belongings. With state tax, airport fees and a full tank of petrol, it comes to ...

A large figure in dollars is quoted. You are jet-lagged after a nine-hour flight to Miami. You want to get on with your holiday but have not got the first clue what the rental car assistant is talking about and are shocked by the price. "What if I don't get the SLI?" you suggest timidly, in a bid to chisel at the cost.

"Well," the assistant replies. "You could be sued for a lot of money in the case of an accident."

You inquire how much. At mention of the word "million", out comes the plastic.

Hiring a car in America has traditionally been something of a nightmare. The endless insurance acronyms, the unexpected additional expenses and the fear of expensive lawsuits have reduced many travellers to tears. It can be an extremely unpleasant way to start a holiday.

However, all this could be about to change. This year, for the first time, many car hire companies have started to promote all-inclusive American package deals. Rather than highlighting low "lead-in" prices covering only the basic cost of renting the car, most companies have begun to flag prices that include all the messy bits: insurance, state taxes (which vary from state to state), airport fees, "handling" fees, unlimited mileage provisions. Many deals also cover the cost of allowing an additional driver; some even throw in a tank of petrol.

Jan Armstrong, executive vice-president of the American Car Rental Association which represents American car hire firms, says: "As an industry, we have had to face up to the fact that there has been a lot of confusion over prices in the past. That is why we recommended that car hire companies highlight the benefits of fully inclusive packages."

Even so, many tour operators and travel agents often advertise rock bottom "lead-in" prices to attract the attention of customers. All-inclusive deals may also be on offer, but you will have to ask specifically for them.

Companies advertising on Teletext tend to be particularly culpable. I called a random sample that were offering bare minimum car rates and not one mentioned the need to take out more comprehensive insurance.

Park & Co, a car hire broker, says: "It is becoming more and more rare to see, for example, a week's car hire in Florida advertised for £49. Too many



Freewheeling: the move towards offering all-inclusive motor insurance should ease the nightmare of hiring a car in America, where unseen extras and fear of lawsuits spoil many a holiday before it starts

people have had their fingers burnt too many times. They've come home to horrific credit card bills and don't want to go through all that again."

Car hire companies claim that their switch to all-inclusive deals has been accompanied by a new soft-softly approach among check-in assistants. Hertz says: "It's pointless to upset customers because, if you do, they're unlikely to come back. Our emphasis is on a relaxed, friendly approach."

Budget says: "Many customers may have felt as though they were being 'put upon' in the past, but it was our legal requirement to take all-inclusive deals — there should be less of the nastiness that again."

Perhaps the advent of all-inclusive deals will make such horror stories less likely in the future. But, for the moment, the jury is still out.

How to get the best deals when hiring in the USA

ALL-INCLUSIVE DEALS SHOULD COVER:

Loss Damage Waiver (LDW): Also known as Collision Damage Waiver (CDW). Covers any accidental collision damage and usually also provides protection from vandalism, theft or "acts of nature" (ie. earthquakes, floods, hurricanes — should you be so unlucky). It is extremely basic and does not cover damage to other cars or property. It is often quoted in tempting lead-in prices as though it is all you need in terms of accident cover, but is not enough on its own. Usually costs £7.60-£10.80 (£12-£17) a day.

Supplementary Liability Insurance (SLI): Also known as Supplementary Liability Protection (SLP), Liability Insurance Supplement (LIS), Additional Liability Insurance (ALI) or Extended Protection (EP). Crucial protection against third-party claims. Most policies cover up to £637,000 (£1 million) — considered necessary in a country where lawyers are ready to go to town on "mental trauma" and "whiplash" after the smallest of bumps. Without SLI, the only third-party protection you have comes from the car rental company. The amount of this cover varies from state to state. In Florida it is a maximum of £6,369 (£10,000) for each person injured — up to a maximum of £12,738 (£20,000) an incident — and £6,369 (£10,000) in property damage; not enough in a serious accident. SLI usually costs £5.09-£6.36 (£8-£10) a day.

State taxes: These vary from state to state. Usually the rate is 3 to 18 per cent. 3.75 per cent in Texas, 18 per cent in Washington. It is 6.5 per cent in Florida — the most popular British fly-drive destination — where there is also a £1.30 (£2.05) a day environmental surcharge. Occasionally states have a flat rate; for example, £19.10 (£30) in Massachusetts.

Airport fees: Like state taxes, airport fees can vary enormously. They are

also expressed differently by different hire companies; for example, Hertz's airport rate in Miami is 9 per cent of the whole sale, while Dollar's is £1.59 (£2.50) a day.

Handling fees: Some, but not all, companies choose to charge handling fees — these cover the cost of running shuttle buses to and from the airport. Dollar's rate in Miami is £1.59-£2.22 (£2.50-£3.50) a day.

Unlimited mileage: Always make sure that unlimited mileage is included; miles can easily clock up and charges for going over limits can be expensive.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGES SOMETIMES INCLUDE

Tank of petrol: Filling a tank up costs £9.55-£15.92 (£15-£25) with most hire cars, so a "free" tank can help sway the decision to choose one company

rather than another when packages are closely priced. If it is not included in a package, check-in staff should ask if you want to pay for a tank of the hire company's petrol (allowing you to return the car with an empty tank for no extra charge) or for you to return the car with a full tank. If you do buy upfront, remember not to return with a full tank.

Additional driver: It usually costs £1.91-£3.18 (£3-£5) a day for an additional driver. Budget's Miami rate is £2.54 (£4), and Thrifty's Orlando rate is £3.18 (£5). Some companies include "free" drivers for certain cities (more common in California than the east coast), so it is worth asking about this.

USUALLY NOT INCLUDED

Drop-off fees: If you are taking a car from one depot and dropping it off at another, there is usually quite a hefty



Highway patrol: Read the small print when you hire a car in America

MAKING BOOKINGS

IT IS often cheaper to book through a broker, many of whom say they will beat offers by rival firms.

CAR-HIRE COMPANIES

Alamo 0990 994000
Avis 0990 900500
Budget 0800 181181
Dollar 0800 252897
Hertz 0990 906090
Thrifty 0990 166238

BROKERS

Holiday Autos 0990 300400
Park & Go 081-977 7444
Pelican 01625 586666
Premier 01279 641040
Suncars 0990 005566
Transhire 0171-978-1922

fee. Hertz's fees are £31.84 (£50) for a drop-off less than 250 miles away; £63.69 (£100) for a drop-off 251-500 miles away; and £184.47 (£500) for a drop-off more than 501 miles away. However, there are a few popular one-way routes which do not always have extra charges; for example, Las Vegas to San Francisco; New York to Washington DC; and Miami to Orlando. Usually, whether there is a fee or not depends entirely on whether the company has a car that needs to be returned to your destination.

Upgrades: It is always worth asking for a "free" upgrade — you have nothing to lose. Cars range in size from "economy" (not very comfortable on long trips and really a bit too small for a family with two children), to "compact" (reasonably powerful, room for two kids in the back, good luggage space in the boot), to "intermediate" (roughly the same size but more powerful than a "compact", and usually only a few dollars more each day), to "full-size" (room for a family with three children, lots of boot room), to "luxury". Sometimes the terminology is different. When booking, do make sure you inquire about car size.

Personal Accident Insurance (PAI): Also known as Personal Effects Cover (PEC). Cover for medical assistance and personal possessions. This is normally not needed if you have taken out travel insurance.

Under-25 surcharges: The minimum car-hire age is normally 21 and there are expensive daily charges for rental drivers aged 21-25. Dollar charges £12.73 (£20) a day in Miami for those aged 21-25, and Thrifty charges £9.55 (£15). The only state where Hertz allows under-25 drivers is New York, where there is a £31.21 (£49) a day charge for drivers aged 18-25.

Child seats: Usually cost about £2.54 (£4) a day; worth taking your own (airlines treat them as luggage).

Sun, Sea & Save



more than £70 at

Sketchley SupaSaps

when you buy foreign currency
+ American Express Travellers
Cheques from NatWest

NatWest
More than just a bank

National Westminster Bank Plc.
Registered Office: 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP. Registered in England No. 929027
Travel money must be collected by 30 September 1997

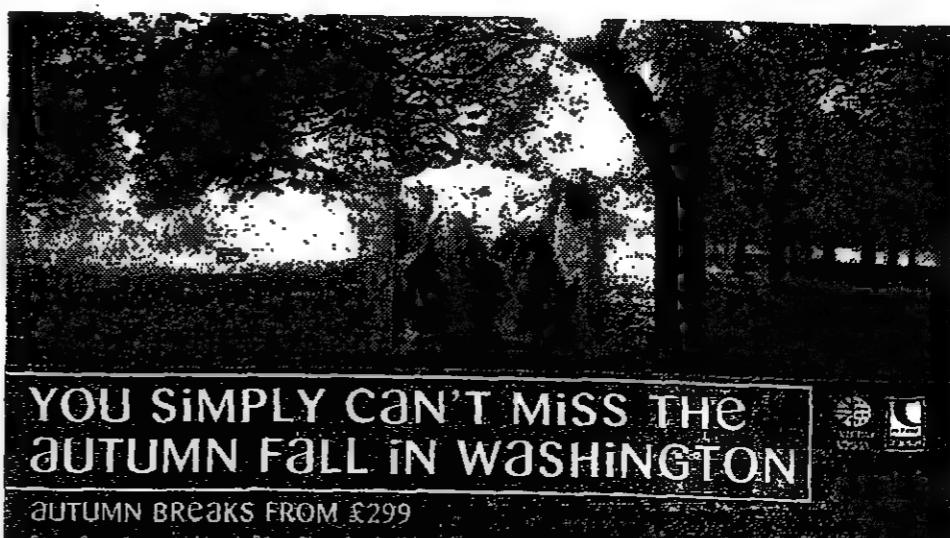
100% of your money is protected by the FSA.

HOW MUCH DOES A PACKAGE COST?

Each all-inclusive deal quoted covers: SLI, LDW, state taxes, airport fees, handling fees and unlimited mileage. The prices are for a four-door "compact" car for one week in September.

Car hire company or broker	Miami	San Francisco (JFK airport)	Extras
Alamo	£195	£165	Free additional driver & fuel
Avis	£183	£163	Free additional driver in San Francisco
Budget	£179	£179	Free additional driver in San Francisco
Dollar	£184	£184	Free additional driver in San Francisco
Hertz	£180	£180	Free additional driver
Premier — broker	£175	£175	Free additional driver & fuel in Miami and San Francisco
Thrifty	£187	£187	Free additional driver

(Prices can fluctuate and are subject to availability)



YOU SIMPLY CAN'T MISS THE AUTUMN FALL IN WASHINGTON

AUTUMN BREAKS FROM £299

From Sept 1st until March 31st. Fly-drive holidays have been reduced to just £299. And from Nov 1st until March 31st Hotel inclusive breaks are only £339 for a four night stay.

Places quoted are subject to availability. For full details, call 01293 544889 or write to Virgin Holidays, 100 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AU.

WASHINGTON

01293 544889. Ask for a travel agent.



Those steamy
southern states

AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Those steamy southern states

MANY British holidaymakers are likely to be heading beyond Florida and California next year to the beguiling and quaintly historic *Gone with the Wind* southern states. They will discover a treasure trove of huge sandy beaches, offshore islands, stunning mountain scenery, old plantation houses and manicured golf courses — plus two of America's most enchanting small cities.

These are Charleston, in South Carolina, with its 1,500-odd 18th- and 19th-century buildings, which was saved by poverty and neglect (it was not worth pulling them down to build modern high-rises); and Savannah, over the border in neighbouring Georgia, where tourism has been boosted by the bestseller *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (Vintage, £6.99). John Berendt's steamy non-fiction account of sex and spells, intrigue and eccentricity under lush magnolias. The number of visitors to the area increased by almost 50 per cent within a year of the book's publication in 1994.

New England Country Homes (01798 869096) is to expand into North and South Carolina in 1998 with flights to Charlotte, in North Carolina, and prices similar to those in the firm's New England programme, where travel, car hire, hotel stopovers, insurance and two weeks' rental of a self-catering cottage or studio costs from £695 per person (based on four sharing a cottage).

Golf specialist Longshot (01730 240370) has introduced packages

to South Carolina, birthplace of American golf in the 18th century. The 50-mile stretch of saltmarsh coast at Myrtle Beach has more than 90 courses. A week's holiday, staying at the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort (room only), including flights and car hire, costs from £525, rising to £829 at peak season over Christmas. Special rates to play three courses cost between £30-£105 per person.

■ STILL not as big as the Cheltenham or Hay-on-Wye events, Chester's Literature Festival is, however, climbing the charts. Held from October 4-22, speakers will include poet Roger McGough, cricket umpire Dickie Bird and Dame Cleo Laine — who will be talking about her autobiography *You Can Sing if You Want*, to be published next month. More information from the festival box office (01244 341200/320700).

Fly out for a try



THE tenth International World Rugby Classic will take place in Bermuda from November 9-15, with the Classic Lions (a combined teams of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales players) who will be in competition with New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina, the United States, Canada and Uruguay. Sport Abroad (01304 744345) is offering seven-night packages for £974, which includes direct flights, transfers, accommodation (but not meals) and entry to all the matches.

Bull's brandy

PEAK season seems an extraordinary time for the Spanish Tourist Office in London to close to the public, but this week it is moving premises. "After 20 years we had to evacuate the building, and we've been trying to move for a year," says a spokesman.

Prospective visitors should turn to Lonely Planet's first guidebook to Spain (just published at £12.99), for answers to some of the questions the tourist offices might prefer not to have raised: such as the best transvestite performer in Madrid, the bar specialising in absinthe in Barcelona, and the controversy behind the 93 huge bull signs (yes, you can tell they are bulls) advertising a fiery brandy that loom over the main roads.

In the book's "Best and Worst" section, there is a big thumbs-down for Spanish bureaucracy, the dull provincial town of Albacete in Castilla-La Mancha, and beachwear on the Costa Blanca. But Seville (except in July and August), Galicia's rias or fjords, Madrid's nightlife and most of the Balearic islands receive a seal of approval.

The tourist office says it is "expected" to be open from Monday at 22-23 Manchester Square, London W1M 5AP (0171-486 8077). The brochure line remains as 0891 669920 (50p per minute).

■ DESPITE its somewhat uninspiring title, *Time To Learn* the booklet published by NIACE (The National Organisation for Adult Learning) is a little gem. It lists more than 2,000 special interest breaks that take place in centres all over the UK, with a few abroad, from October to March next year. The courses range from Jane Austen to Assertiveness. Bats to

Bellydancing, Dracula to Dowsing and Teddy Bears to Trollope, with arts and crafts, cookery, computing, gardening and languages among the most popular. UK breaks cost from £40 a day to more than £200 for a four or five-day course (which includes food, board and tuition but not travel), with overseas courses costing considerably more. *Time To Learn* costs £4.95 from NIACE (0116-204 4200).

Three in a bed

MANY ski operators' prices to North America are dependent on three or four sharing a room — or even a king-size bed — claims the *Good Skiing Guide 1998* (Which? Books, £15.99), published this week (see review below).

Hotels regularly offer two large double beds, which may be suitable for families, but those who

do not fancy such togetherness may find themselves paying hefty under-occupancy supplements.

First Choice has a week's B&B in Breckenridge in the USA costing between £545 and £726, including flights and car hire, based on four sharing a room. However, there is a supplement of £13.50 per person per night if only three share, and a staggering £40.50 if there are only two — thus adding £94.50 and £283.50 respectively to each person's week holiday cost.

In Vail, Inghams offers the Hotel Sonnenalp where rooms sleeping up to three people have either two doubles or one king-size double bed. Three holidaymakers pay from £804 to £955 each; if there are only two in the room with the king-size bed, the supplement is £20.20 per night, adding £141.40 to each person's holiday cost. Similar sup-

plements also apply to Canada, now attracting 35,000 British skiers a year.

Within Europe, such supplements generally only apply to apartments in French purpose-built ski resorts.

■ IF YOU are fed up with the high pollution levels that occurred in Britain this summer, the Austrian Alpine resort of Galtor, 1,600 metres above sea level, may be the answer. It has been declared the Tyrol's first official Climatic Health Resort after five years of stringent testing of its air quality. Its location is also favourable for those who are sensitive to house mites, and for allergy sufferers with problems of high pollen levels. Further details are available from the Galtor Tourist Office (telephone 0043 5443 8521 76).

Bare boats

THE Republic of the Maldives is to allow "bareboat", or independent, charters to sail among its Indian Ocean islands from December.

Yacht charter specialist Sunsail (01705 222300) offers a fortnight's Maldives sailing package including flights and hire of 25-foot boats for £850-£1,400 for each of six people sharing, or from £970-£1,420 for a more comfortable passage for each of four.

Victualling is likely to present problems, however, as most of the designated "tourist" islands consist of only one hotel with no shops or cafés, and sailors will need to stock up on Malé, the main island, or buy food packs. The snorkelling and diving are superb, though, and will more than make up for this inconvenience.

Two expert guides help in choosing a ski holiday

Easy going on the piste

The annual "Where shall we go on our skiing holiday this year?" question is, for some, the beginning of an adventurous trawl through a pile of brochures; for others a decision whether to opt for that marvellous place the Joneses went to last year. Two new books aim to help readers make a more informed decision.

The Consumers' Association *The Good Skiing Guide*, now in its 12th year, has become *The Good Skiing and Snowboarding Guide*. It reports on the slopes, lifts, accommodation, restaurants and ski schools at 500 resorts, mainly in Europe and North America.

Three years ago, the publication's founding editor went off to produce a rival: *Where to Ski and Snowboard*, published by Thomas Cook, covers 1,000 resorts, again mainly in Europe and North America.

There is frankly little to choose between the two guides. *Where to Ski* uses some colour photographs and is well laid out. Its authors, Chris Gill and Dave Watts, have both been full-time ski writers for longer than they care to recall.

The Good Skiing Guide is less eye-catching, with colour maps but no photographs. But it has a reliability that has made it an essential reference book for those who work in the world of skiing. Its husband-and-wife authors, Peter Hardy and Felice Eyston, are also veteran ski writers. Either publication could revolution-



Snow go: planning ahead can avoid skiing pitfalls

Ltd, £15.99), is available from bookshops or by telephoning 0800 252 100.

■ Where to Ski and Snowboard (Thomas Cook Publishing, £14.99) is available in bookshops from September 15 or by calling 0733 502357.

GRAHAM DUFFILL

is the world of any typical British skier. The wise skier could watch the snow reports, study these books and, when convinced, book a holiday at the last minute.

■ *The Good Skiing and Snowboarding Guide* (Which?

In the family for 50 years

Firm that started in a phone booth

FIFTY years ago, George Bales ventured into the travel business, making his first deal from a phone booth in London's Lower Regent Street and flying Indian students between London and Delhi — which then took 24 hours, with four stops en route.

This week, Bales Tours — as his company has been known since 1960 — celebrates its half-century as a family-run business, quite an achievement given the current dominance of large tour operators.

George, 87, has now retired but his wife, Molly, 70, is Bales's managing director and this week she recalled some of the early endeavours — including their visit to China in 1960, where factory inspections and tours of communes were among the highlights.

"We were clapped and waved at wherever we went — and we clapped back," says Molly. "At the railway station, faces at the window watched us progress to the soft-seat carriage — we felt like royalty."

Bales remains best known for its Nile cruises but has also pioneered upmarket holidays to places such as Yemen, Cambodia, Bhutan and Alaska.

Costa Rica has been added for 1998, along with a 15-day Mongolia tour, which starts at £2,380 per person. Travellers will sight when they recall the brochure for 1971, when a 30-day round-the-world trip cost £499.

■ Call 0106 885023 for the new brochure.

■ City break specialist Time Off celebrates its 30th anniversary this month — although unlike Bales, it is no longer in private hands. Omer Roland Castro sold the company he built up to Thomas Cook last year. Time Off has 28 cities in its current brochure, available on 0990 846 363.

CATH URQUHART

WORD-WATCHING

Greek oura a tail. "I will stake the sacred circle upon my brow against the Royal ouraeus on thine."

TENSON

(a) A contest in verse between rival troubadours; a piece of verse or song composed for or sung in such a contest. From the Old French word for contention or a contest. Robert Browning, *Sordello*, 1840: "While, out of dream, his day's work went! To tune a crazy tenzon or sirvent."

TULLIBEE

(a) A species of whitefish (*Coregonus tullibee*) found in the Great Lakes of North America. From the Cree and Odjibway *tou-nie-bee*. "The tullibees, often sold as fresh water herring, are only fit to eat in winter."

Answers from page 28

TAPNET

(a) A basket made of rushes, in which figs (formerly also raisins, etc.) are imported.

ERON top

an old word for a basket as a measure for grapes or figs. "Currants or Raysons of Corinth do not much differ in vertue from tapnet or frayle Raysons."

CATH URQUHART

AN EXPEDITION CRUISE TO ANTARCTICA'S ROSS SEA

ABOARD THE ICE BREAKER KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV

14 February to 8 March 1998

Ross Island: More historic exploration visiting the huts of the Terra Nova Expedition built by Scott's men between 1910-13 and Shackleton's hut at nearby Cape Royds which is surrounded by the southernmost penguin rookery.

Ross Ice Shelf: Approximately the size of France we will cruise along the 110 mile face and admire the immense tabular icebergs that are calved from this massive extension of the Polar Ice Cap. Weather permitting we hope to land by helicopter atop the 100 ft high ice barrier.

Days 16-18 Crossing the Southern Ocean

Day 19 Campbell Island. This amazing island, a possession of New Zealand, is famous for its 15,000+ Royal Albatrosses. These huge birds nest amongst the brightly coloured mega-herbs.

Days 20 & 21 Auckland Islands. Enderby is an enchanted place known for its rat-free forest and endemic wildlife. We hope to see yellow-eyed penguins, red-crowned parakeets and the rare Hooker's sea lion.

Day 22 Shakes Island. From our Zodiaks we can watch the wildlife of this protected Nature Reserve.

Day 23 Christchurch. Disembark after breakfast in Christchurch's port of Lyttleton.

PRICES PER PERSON

Sharing a twin bedded cabin £6995

Supplement for suite £1500

Supplement for corner suite £2000

Single occupancy of twin bedded cabin limited availability £7995

Price includes: 22 nights aboard the Kapitan Khlebnikov on full board, port taxes, shore excursions, local taxes, helicopter flights, guest speakers, expedition team.

Not including: Air travel, UK departure tax, gratuities.

N.B. Special flight arrangements in economy and business class are available on request

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Please telephone 0171-409 0376

(7 days a week during office hours)

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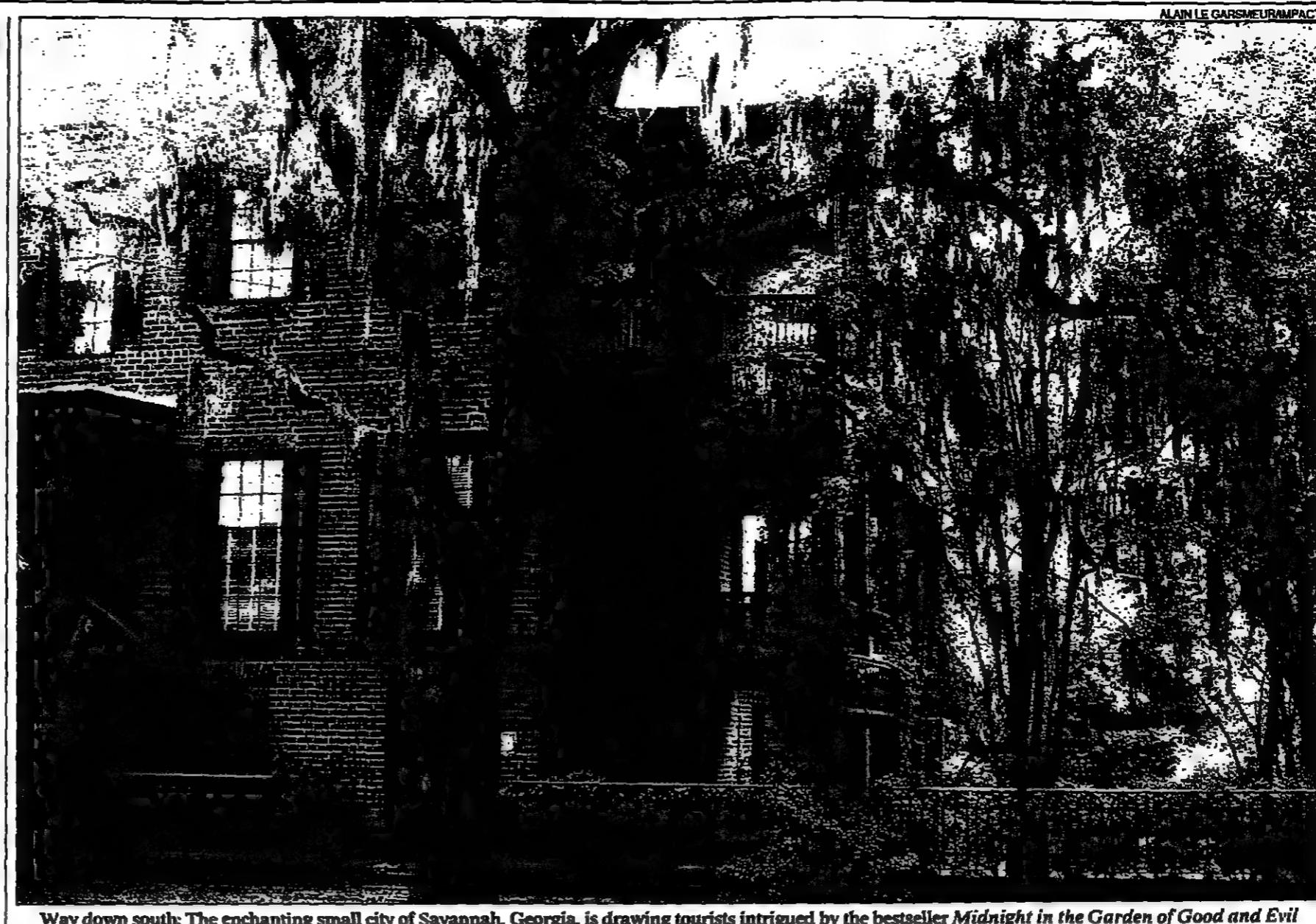
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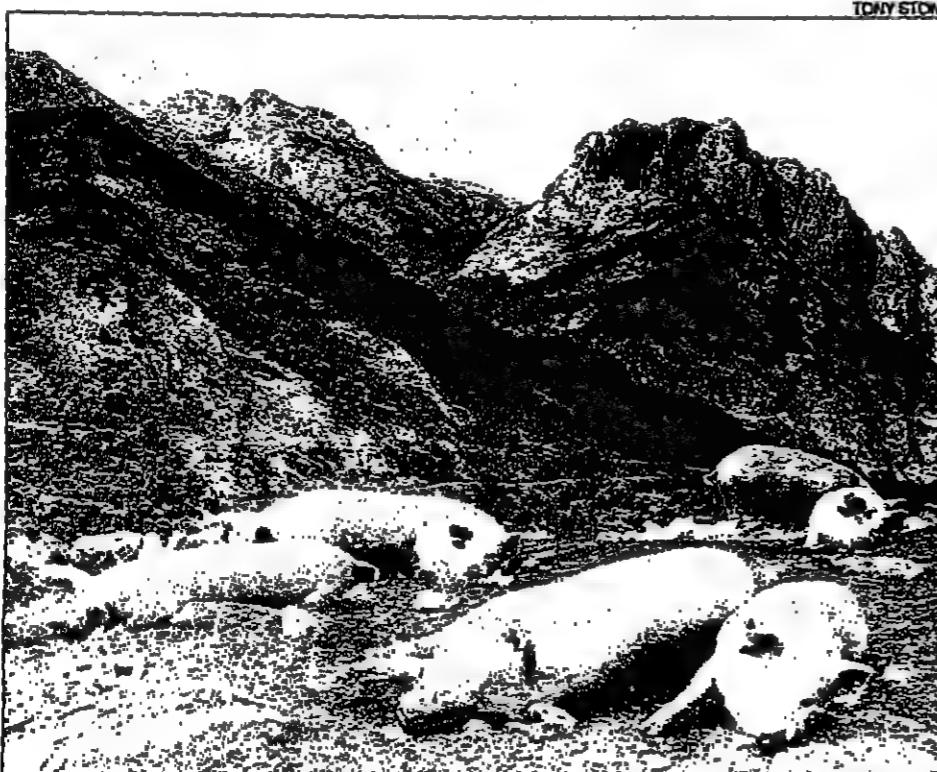
ATA V221



On Corsica, John Mortimer hears ancient legends; plus neighbouring Sardinia also has tales to tell



Corsica's elders, left, find that the local vendettas give island gossip a dramatic flavour; and Bonifacio's mile-long harbour, right, is one of the most beautiful in the world, and is best approached by boat



Corsican pigs take a nap - and hope that the dream hunters are having a day off

CORSICA FACT FILE

■ Ferries operate from Marseilles, Nice and Toulon to six ports in Corsica. The Marseilles-Ajaccio route, for example, is an 11-hour overnight or seven-hour daytime journey. Prices in September are £35.50 one way per passenger; supplements for cabins. Cars from £39.70 one way (0171-491 4968).

■ There are no direct scheduled flights to Corsica, only via Paris, Marseilles or Nice. Charter flights to four airports on the island operate direct from May to October.

■ Simply Corsica (081-995 9323) has charter flights until October 5 from £189, and year-round scheduled seats averaging £300. The company has holiday packages in late September from £400 a week, to include car rental and self-catering.

accommodation, based on two sharing. ■ Other operators to Corsica include Corsican Places (0124 774366) and VTB Holidays (0124 246310). Voyages Iténa (0171-324 4440) offers holidays to both Corsica and Sardinia. ■ Hiring a car: Holiday Autos (0993 300400) charges £163 a week from Ajaccio and other Corsican outlets for a Peugeot 106. ■ Further information: French Tourist Office (0891 244125). Calls are charged at 50p a minute. ■ Reading: *The Granita Island*, by Dorothy Carrington (Penguin, £3.99) is by far the best study of Corsica in English. *Corsica: The Rough Guide*, by David Abram and Theo Taylor (£9.99).

Now that the South of France's coastline has become one of the most hideous places in the world, a nightmare of high-rise hotels, traffic jams, apartment blocks, advertising hoardings and expensive beaches, take a plane from Nice or, better still, a boat, 100 miles southeast to Corsica.

It is an island of ghosts and vendettas, little harbours and a steep, hardly inhabited coastline that has not changed much since the wife of Charles Bonaparte of Ajaccio gave birth to a plump baby they christened Napoleon.

Corsica, rising rock-like from the Mediterranean, has been fought for, bought, and passed on like a football by a variety of invaders.

Its first civilisation is lost in mists of pre-history. Two thousand years before Christ, the Corsicans adopted the Megalithic faith, a powerful religion of the dead, and strange statues of standing warriors, some holding recognisable swords, stand on the hills round Filosia. They are as old as time and look as modern as Henry Moore.

The Romans came and used it as a place to dump their political offenders — Seneca, the Roman philosopher and dramatist, was banished to Corsica for years. This established a Corsican tradition of obstinacy and resentment against all sorts of government. The Islanders' dislike of being a department of France still erupts into violence.

The Vandals occupied the island and used its trees to build the ships on which they terrorised the Mediterranean. From the 13th century the mazzetti, the dream hunters who still go hunting, in or out of their bodies in the villages that the mountainous territory makes isolated.

The mazzetti are hunters, who leave without disturbing their sleeping spouses, and travel miles to kill wild boar or other small animals with knives, or their hands — or even, it's said, with the stems of asphodels. The moment their quarry dies the dream hunters see, in the face of the animal, the features of a relative, the priest or the doctor or just the woman next door, who magically also dies.

The same result seems to be obtained even if the hunt happened in the mind. Legend has it that one husband spoke of a wife who, he was sure, didn't leave his bed all night. In the morning she told him that she had been dream hunting and left her bloodstained knife in a cave 20 miles away. The incredulous husband travelled to the cave — and found the knife exactly as his wife had said.

Dorothy Carrington, who wrote an irresistible book, *The Dream Hunters of Corsica*, stumbled on the subject when an old man told her that he dreamt he had killed a wild boar in the night, seeing the face of his nephew in the boar's face. He was in tears because he had then heard of the nephew's death.

Carrington also studied the *vozel*, the songs sung as the corpse is carried to church, which often call for vengeance on an illegal death. Once, when a priest refused to toll the bell at a murderer's funeral, the song started: *May I see in a basket/The entrails of this priest/May I tear them with my teeth*.

Visitors to Corsica, happily, will have no need to go hunting boar with an asphodel in their dreams. In the main city, Ajaccio, you can walk off a packed street into a cool and elegant house where Napoleon was born — a child of the prosperous ruling class.

You can wander into the art gallery

and see an erotic Titian of Zeus, having turned himself into a swan, making love to a voluptuous Leda. You can take refuge from the sun in the cool, white marble of the cathedral where Napoleon was baptised, and then travel south to Bonifacio.

If you can, you should enter Bonifacio as Odysseus and I did — from the sea. The inhabitants flung down rocks on the Greek sailors but I found them friendly.

Your first sight of Bonifacio is extraordinary, a huge pink pile of delicately folded limestone, a sort of giant's *millefeuille*, which Odysseus may well have thought looked harmless, but then you see that it is topped by a frowning fortress.

If you are in a small boat, you can glide into the echoing caves where a ray of sunshine, a cathedral beam, lightens the water to turquoise and you can see the shadowy shoals of fish. And then you sail through Bonifacio's back door, the narrow entrance between neatly folded rocks, into the mile-long harbour. The houses are tall, narrow and elegant and the inhabitants still speak in a Genoese dialect.

There are many good things in Bonifacio: excellent fish restaurants, a distant view of Sardinia and not a single vendetta. I don't think there's a more beautiful harbour in the world.

So if you want to escape from plastic hotels, muzak, coffee shops and hamburger joints, if you want to feel yourself part of a more mysterious and exciting past and a less unendurable present, sail to Corsica.

CAMERA PRESS

On the trail of the dream hunters

'Go to Corsica if you want to escape from plastic hotels and Muzak'



The south of Sardinia is closer to Africa than to Italy and the terrain is good for building up a healthy appetite



numbers and started to protect them, so they named the bird after her."

Sardinia was inhabited by a civilisation found nowhere else in the world and which still puzzles archaeologists. There are an estimated 7,000 nuraghi on the island, remains of small settlements now thought to be fortresses, villages, dating from Nuragic times — which lasted nearly a millennium from 1500 BC.

We sweated and hauled our way up to one called Tiscali, a cluster of crumbling houses that had been preserved because earth and stone had collected over them to form a natural roof, now partially collapsed. These ruins are among the earliest known, a man-made structure so ancient that a stalagmite had started to form on one of the dooposts from the drip from the rock roof above.

The dried pith also burns very slowly indeed as tinder, so shepherds carry fire from one site to the next by lighting a giant fennel. Prometheus is said to have brought the fire from heaven down to earth in a *ferula*.

Ferula was the Mediterranean's second largest island after Sicily, dwarfing Crete and Corsica, yet it attracts few British visitors. Those who do go tend to sit on the beaches of the Costa Smeralda in the north, yet the south of Sardinia is closer to Africa than it is to Italy, and the interior is ideal walking country, a craggy mix of mountains and limestone gorges, with fertile, vine-filled valleys and towns clinging to hillsides in checkerboard patterns of brown roofs and white walls.

As we walked through the Gorge of Gorropu one day, Fi stopped and pointed out a plant with a prehistoric story attached. "This is the *ferula*, or giant fennel. It's incredibly

strong, but it's very light wood when cut, so the Sardinian shepherds use them to make stools, which they can then easily sling over their backs."

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asphodel honey and wine which is cooked with cinders until it thickens and the cinders give it a bitter taste to contrast with the honey and cheese..."

After that, what else could we do but make the day's final walk: as far as the hotel bar for a nightcap of Myrtle, a myrtle liqueur that's made only on Sardinia and is said to settle the stomach. After a day of Sardinian food you could see why they invented it. If this is Barbagia, I thought then just call me a born-again barbarian.

MIKE GERRARD

SARDINIA FACT FILE

■ Mike Gerrard travelled with Meridiana Airlines and the Alternative Travel Group.

■ The Alternative Travel Group (01865 310399) offers holidays including a one-week "Wilds of Sardinia" break, departing October 11, from £1,240 per person, including accommodation in a four-star hotel and flights. All meals are included. It is suitable for any level of walker.

■ Flights with Meridiana Airlines (0171-639 2222) to Olbia

in September cost from £249 return from Gatwick. When to go: April, May, September and October are best.

■ Books: *Sardinia* by Andrew Gerald Gravette (Windrush Press, £9.95). ■ Tips: A water bottle is essential. Take good walking boots, a sun hat, sun cream and a swimming costume.

■ Further information: Italian State Tourist Board, Princess Street, London W1R 8AY (0171-408 1254).



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THE TIMES

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

ADVENTUROUS older (30) seeks companion for weekend on the coast. I am a non-smoker, non-drinker, weight conscious & have a sense of humour. I am friendly & have the right to share my life. Box No. 7215 

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CHESS

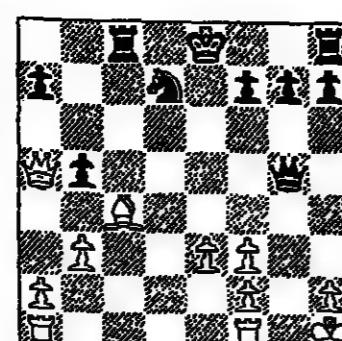
by Raymond Keene

AFTER the excitement of the British Championship and the Mind Sports Olympiad I revert this week, as promised, to answering your queries.

Indeed, the first question in this week's column concerns a game from the British Championship play-off and contains a brilliant insight by a reader which would considerably have improved on the play of co-British champion Matthew Sadler.

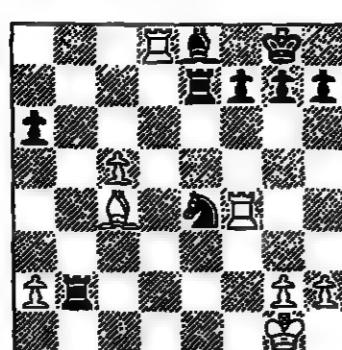
In fact, had Sadler seen this superb idea beforehand, his game would have gone down in the annals of great queen sacrifices.

The following position occurred after 17 moves of the game Sadler-Miles, Smith & Williamson British Championship play-off 1997, and was given in the daily column which was published in *The Times* on August 19.



Mr Ball of Devon suggests this resignation was premature and Black could have tried 1... Qf6, aiming for perpetual check on f3 and g4 if White should capture a black pawn on the queenside. However, White would meet 1... Qf6 with 2 Be2 and inevitably win a further pawn on the queenside. He would then be two pawns ahead — more than enough to win at a high level. Should Black try 1... Qf6 2 Be2 Rf2 White simply plays 3 Qxb5, bxc6, Qxc6+, bxc6, winning any perpetual check and staying two pawns ahead.

White to play. From Nogueiras-Frias, Cuba 1997. Winning Move on August 7. White, a piece down, can regain his material with 1 Rxe5. Rxe5 2 Bxf7+. Can he do better than this?



Grandmaster Sadler now continued 18 Kg5. Nf6 19 Rxf5 with an extremely strong position which he eventually won.

Mr Gait of Harrow points out that instead of regaining his queen, White could have played 18 Rg1, threatening Rg8 mate, and if 18... Nf6 19 Bxf6 Rxf6 mate.

This is very well spotted and is completely correct. 18 Rg1 would, in fact, have forced an extremely quick mate. Possibly the best ever comment by a *Times* reader.

The following diagram is the final position from the game Kramnik-Ivanchuk, which was played in Dortmund in 1997.

It was in this position that Ivanchuk resigned.

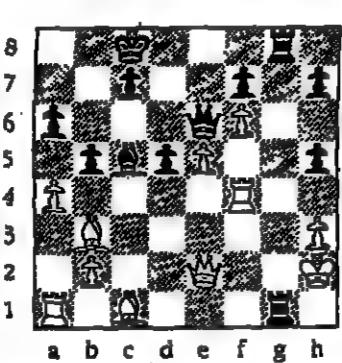
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
Black to play. This position is from the game Werle - Meijere, Antwerp 1997.

Black has sacrificed a piece to obtain an iron grip along the g-file. How did he now make the most of this?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

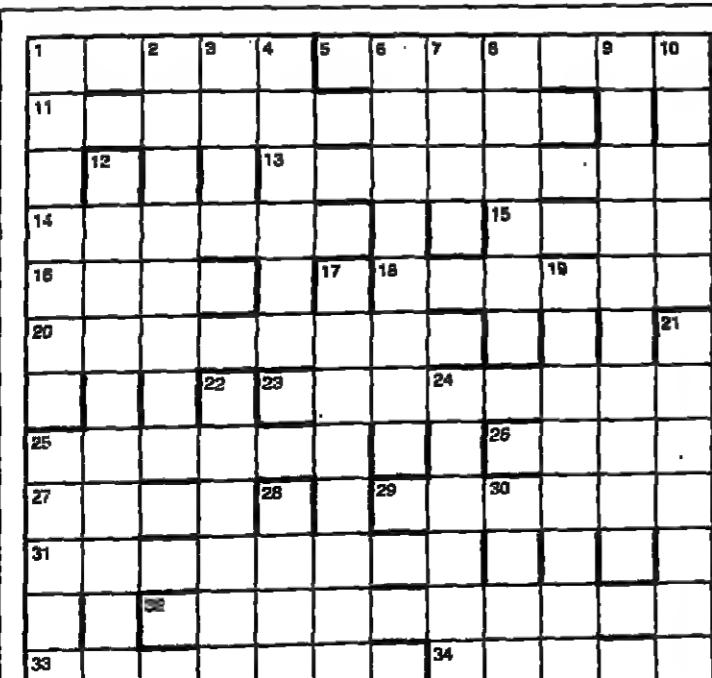
Last week's solution: 1... Bg4



Solution: 1 Rxd7! leaves Black without a decent reply, eg 1... Rb1+ 2 Rf1+ and wins. Mr Feinson of Suffolk suggests that Black could meet 1 Rxg7 with 1... Rb1+ 2 Bf1 Nd2. However, White counters 1... Rb1+ with 2 Rf1+ (discovered check) and Black's position collapses.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3426: Directions Enclosed by Adam

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3426
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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3426, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, September 18.

WATERSTONE'S



The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.

Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1962, and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100+ branches has at least \$10,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-print titles are also available. For Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 0181 742 3800.

WHERE IS the handheld market heading? This is the question begged by a recent trend in Japan, where exam-crunching software for the Nintendo Game Boy did booming sales among students. Once vilified for sapping attention and interest among children, handhelds now have a new future.

Game Boy sales still plod along with a few gimmicks to keep them fashionable. Last year the slender, smaller brother came out, the metallic Pocket Game Boy. Now we are getting the coloured Pocket Game Boy range. But there is also a new kid on the block, admittedly bulkier but in some ways brainier. Tiger Electronics has launched the \$19.99 game.com, a handheld console for £79.99 with a touch-sensitive LCD screen. It comes with a stylus and built in are several basic facilities including phone book, calculator, near-useless calendar and the standard playing-card version of Solitaire. Games are added with teeny cartridges and the unit can hold two.

A decent range of game.com software is not yet with us in Britain. The best are the minor racing game *Indy 500* and *Wheel of Fortune*, despite a heavy American slant on many answers.

But the best, and the best indication that the uses for dedicat-



In safe hands: the thrills of the Indy 500 can be enjoyed on the Tiger Electronics' handheld game.com

ed game hardware are beginning to drift, it is yet to come: game.com's Internet cartridge. With this, and a cable, you can connect to an external modem and access text-based Internet services and e-mail functions, so long as you have an account with a suitable server. It may be a slow and frustrating way to do your Internet business and it may even be more trouble than it is worth, but at least it can be done. It

is something you cannot do with any other game console so far.

This column, too, is now open to e-mails and you can send in your gaming and Internet comments, tips, finds and observations to cyber@dircon.co.uk. You can also write to the address below. When appropriate, entries for competitions will also be accepted by e-mail.

Malcolm Perella from Newcastle upon Tyne is a lecturer in pure

mathematics at Northumbria University who came to the assistance of another reader earlier this year who was looking for a copy of the original game *Go*. Mr Perella is also seeking help from the column to track down a copy of the Japanese game *Shogi*, incorporating a hint facility. He explained:

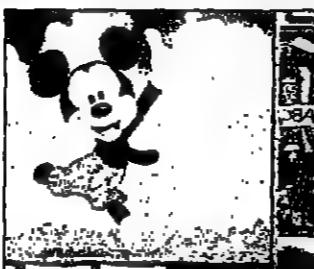
"The game is like chess with one important difference — captured pieces can be dropped by the taker

back on to the board like parachutists. I no longer have a *Shogi* partner to play with so I only play against the machine, but I am not a strong player." If you know of a suitable version of the game, please write in and we will forward details to Mr Perella.

Finally, a reminder to those intending to enter Cyberspace Thirty-Five: be quick as it closes on Wednesday. We have a dozen sets of Anglia Multimedia's Super Iron-On Kits to be won, with which you can design and make your own T-shirt. The competition is open to all, with six kits to be won by readers aged 15 and under and six by those over 15. All you have to do to take part is come up with a winning T-shirt slogan. Your caption can be long or short, so long as it is thought-provoking or funny. Illegible entries will be disqualified.

Write your slogan on a postcard, together with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to Cyberspace Thirty-Five, Computer Games & Pastimes Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You can also e-mail your entry to us, so long as it is clearly marked Cyberspace Thirty-Five Entry, at cyber@dircon.co.uk. Normal *Times* competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into any correspondence.

LATEST SOFTWARE



Learn to draw Mickey Mouse

F/A-18 Hornet 3.0. This is a game for the serious.

The Hornet is one of the mainstays of the American Air Force's fighter fleet. It first appeared at the 1971 Paris Air Show as a full-scale mock-up with a brief to "be a lightweight fighter that could outperform the MiG-17 yet still carry a large external weapons load".

The Hornet is seriously mean, and flying this monster can be seriously difficult. You can opt for the instant flying fun mode, but it is complicated stuff, and not for quick-thrill seekers.

Learning to operate this flight simulator properly is a lengthy process. But once you are competent, you get to take on missions, and there are scores of targets and enemy opponents to take out.

The game engine and its presentation are robust and efficient. The graphics are crisp and, when you are about to crash, the view switches from inside the cockpit to a third-party view of the mishap.

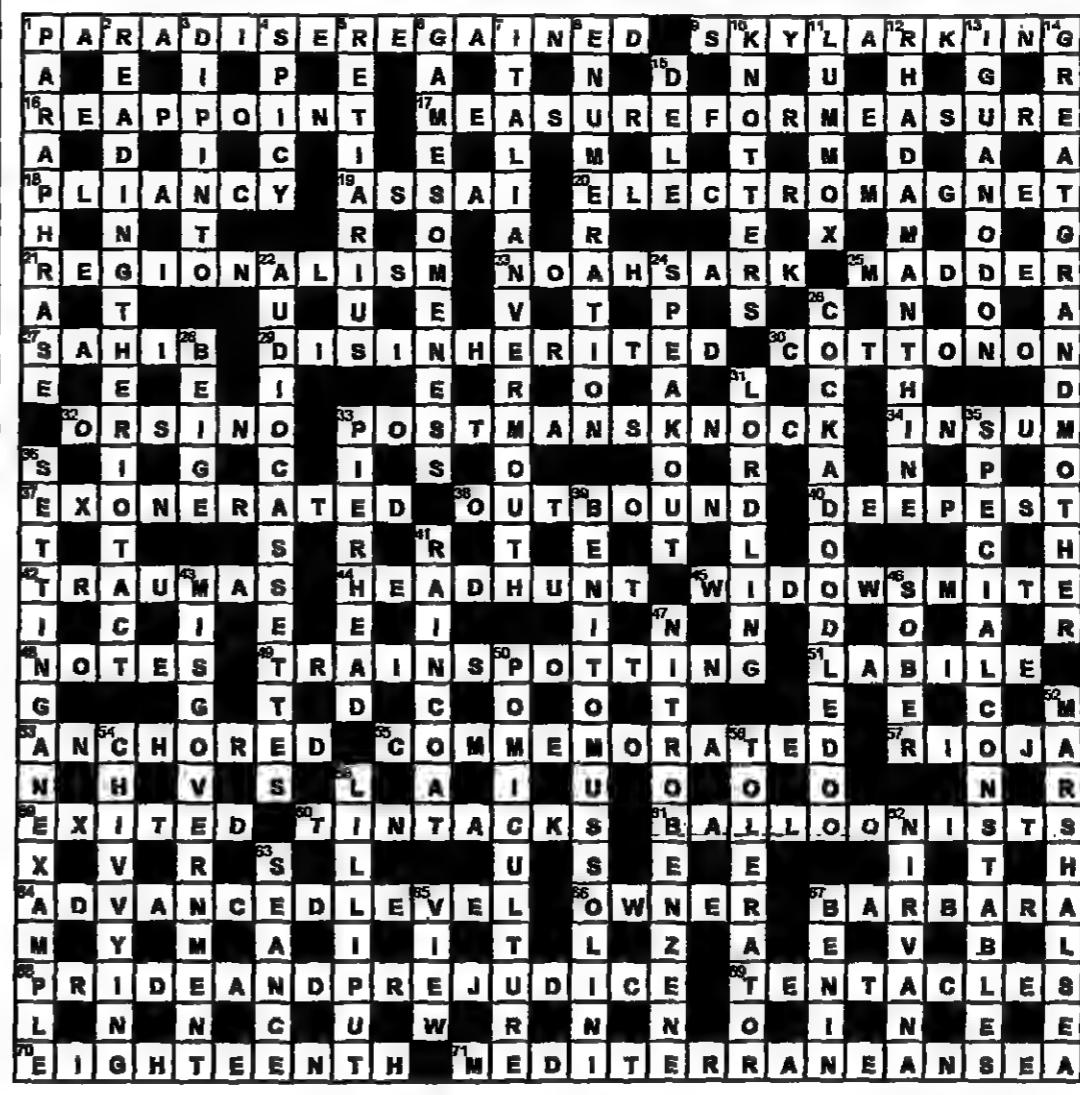
The game engine and its presentation are robust and efficient. The graphics are crisp and, when you are about to crash, the view switches from inside the cockpit to a third-party view of the mishap.

VERDICT: Eight out of ten. Stick, invigilating and enduring fun art studio package. £39.99.

FLASHY Tom Cruise types who enjoy instant gratification playing a *Top Gun* fighter pilot are advised to sidestep Empire Interactive's

VERDICT: Seven out of ten. Sober and complex flight sim for aficionados. £34.99.

SOLUTION TO BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO CROSSWORD



BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IN A teams match or at rubber bridge, it is not the end of the world to double a game contract that turns out to be unbeatable.

However, to double Four Hearts, for example, does cost an extra 170 when they make it, and is more expensive if they redouble and/or make overtricks. Thus it is not good policy to double if you think the contract is going one off at best. The reward of an extra 50 or 100 does not justify the downside. But the risk is well worth taking when there are prospects of the contract going more than one down, for a substantial penalty.

What is a disaster is when declarer is able to use the information presented to him by the double to make a contract he wouldn't have made had it remained undoubled. That was the case on the hand shown below.

Dr East North-South game IMPs

♦K872
♦A89
♦Q2
♦AK93

♦A109
♦KQ4
♦A883
♦D075

♦J4
♦J107852
♦J862

W N E S

J'dain Tend Roffie King Pass

5D Dble Pass 5H

Pass (1) Pass

Contract: Five Hearts by South.

Lead: the ace of diamonds

The deal is taken from the sixth

round of the 1997 Crookfords Cup.

which Tom Townsend's team went on to win.

In the modern game, a six-card suit is considered long enough for a three-level non-vulnerable pre-empt. Ratcliffe (East) therefore felt constrained to open his classical three bid at the four level. If he had an antique Four Diamonds pre-empt, no doubt he would have opened Five Diamonds.

Having boosted the pre-empt, Patrick Jourdain (West) passed unconcernedly over Five Hearts. That looks a fine decision to me. With his partner holding at least seven diamonds, it was quite likely that the ace of diamonds would not stand up and the ace of hearts was probably on his left. So West really does not have more than two certain defensive tricks.

King ruffed the diamond lead and took the percentage line in trumps, ace and another, to go one down. That gains when East has singleton queen or king, twice as likely as his actual holding of singleton nine.

At the other table the bidding proceeded identically up to and including Five Hearts, which West (David Price) doubled. He took the optimistic view that Five Hearts might fail by more than one trick, especially if partner could chip in with a stray something-or-other outside diamonds. East did indeed contribute the queen of clubs, but unfortunately it fell doubleton.

After West's borderline double, the declarer (Akram Zaman) played West for king-queen of hearts, and ran the jack of hearts to hold his trump losers to one. He thus made his contract entirely because of the clues from the double.

West's aggression had turned out to be extremely expensive.

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3426
in association with Waterstone's

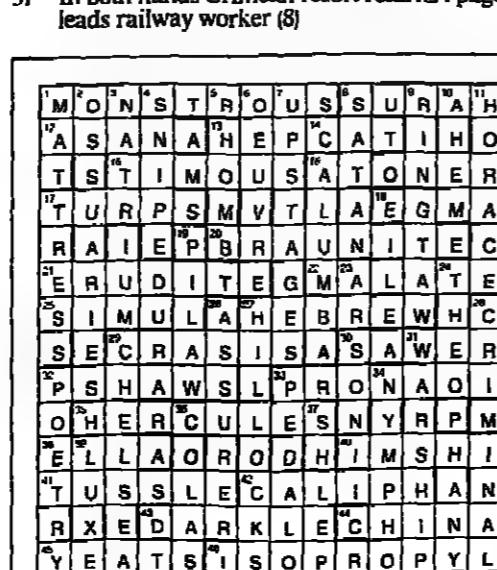
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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3426, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, September 18.

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.

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Solution to No 3423: Cathexis from Dimitry

Across: 1 Stockhausen; 8 Urari; 12 Kink; 13 Croft; 15 Castles; 16 Kathode; 17 Frusta; 18 Mog; 20 Dry-salt; 21 Abderite; 22 Jumbo; 25 Scilla; 27 Yahweh; 29 Smirs; 30 Curio; 32 Rip-sav; 33 Personas; 35 Cerberus; 38 Kebab; 40 Ischia; 41 Kilobit; 42 Mirza; 43 Banker; 44 Acrid; 45 Eliot; 46 Flophouses.

Down: 1 Castrates; 2 Solarises; 3 Mustard; 4 Deaf- aids; 5 Carry; 6 Yearly; 7 Postbags; 8 Judas; 9 Latching; 10 Roc; 11 Homer; 14 Lucre; 19 Blimp; 23 Shaken; 24 Exporter; 26 Huskers; 27 Himalayas; 29 Marxism; 30 Bohemia; 31 Fish-hawk; 32 Euterpe; 33 Keypad; 34 Freckled; 36 Amuse; 37 Phobia; 39 Navy.

The winner is J.W. Leonard of Sutton Courtenay, Oxon.

The five runners-up are: R.A. England of London; John Sparrow of Padbury, Bucks; Sylvia Jordan of Didcot, Oxon; Brian G. Midgley of Etington, Warwickshire; Alan Lye of Edinburgh.

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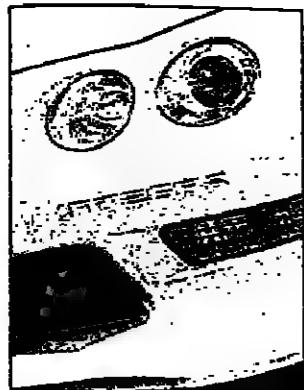
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Exotic imports set a scorching pace

Page 5

CAR 97

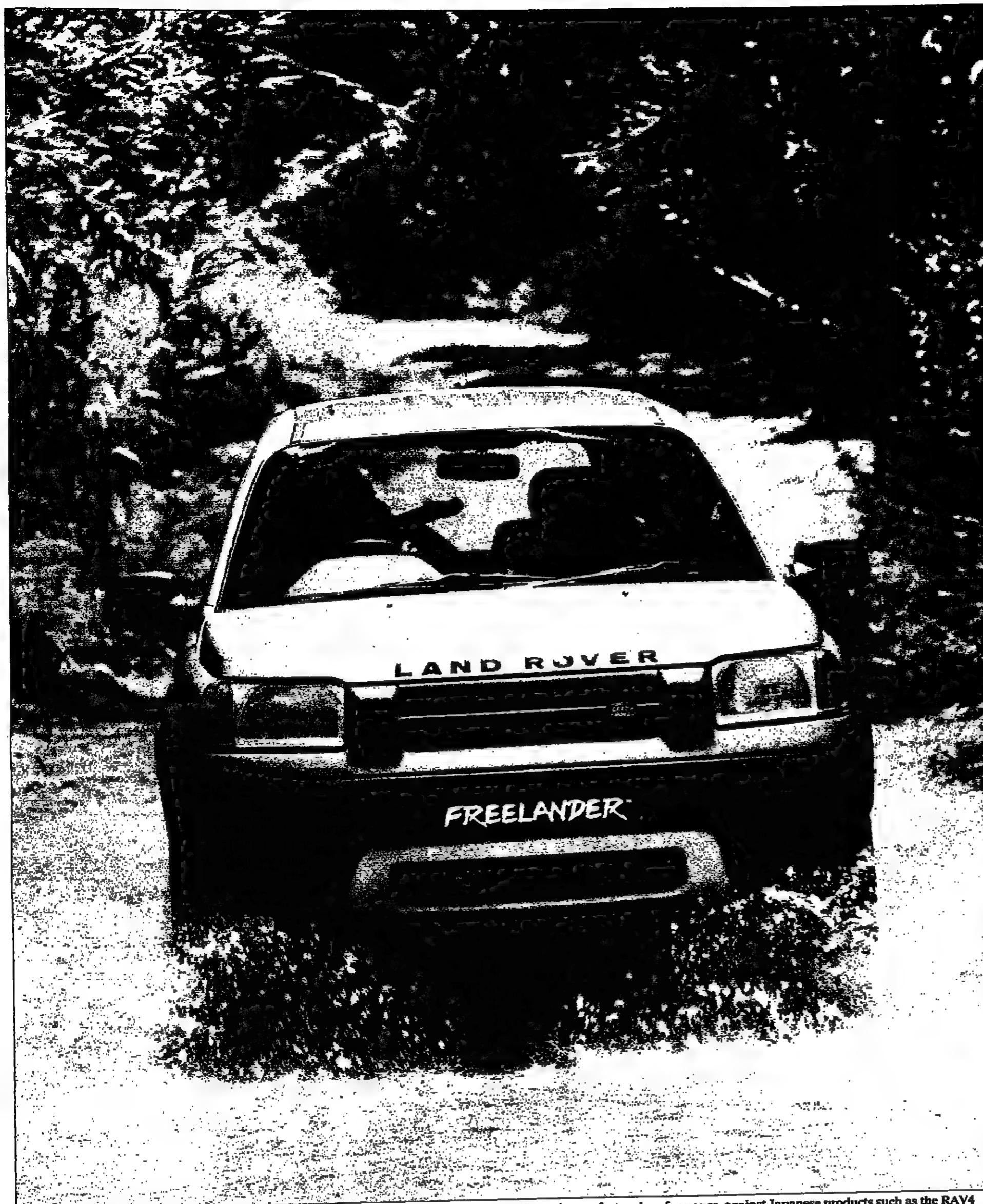
A flat way to mark Bibendum's centenary

Page 7



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1997

Freelander is set to become a marketing triumph, making the competition look twee, says Kevin Eason



First sight of the Freelander suggests Land Rover will once again set the benchmark for style, comfort and performance, against Japanese products such as the RAV4

It was at least worth the wait. Land Rover's new "baby" off-roader will be revealed for the first time next week — and already it looks like a winner.

Small, chunky and versatile, the Freelander is the vehicle Land Rover needed years ago to beat off the intrusion of Japanese manufacturers that captured the niche market for small 4x4 models. While Suzuki and Toyota cashed in on selling mutant Ninja 4x4s in a generation that wanted fun but not a stodgy Land Rover for grown-ups, corporate thumbs in Britain twiddled.

Perhaps Land Rover was just biding its collective time, because the four-year development of the Freelander has produced a vehicle that could prove to be yet another engineering marvel, as well as defining the style for the sector.

Land Rover is the master at rewriting the rules of the off-road market, and where it has gone the rest have been forced to follow. Just look at the Range Rover, which redefined not just the 4x4 but the luxury car market, and then the Discovery, which turned the school run into a procession that looks more like an Army task force.

Rest assured that Japanese engineers will be crawling all over the Land Rover stand when the Freelander is unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show in Germany on Tuesday. Overnight, their tweed, and largely car-based, off-roaders will pale alongside the Tonka-toy styling of the Freelander, the sophistication

Rover breaks new ground

of its cabin and its promised rough-tough performance off-road.

Rarely will you see a Rover team so enthusiastic about a new product as this one. Like the MG, they feel they have hit the sweet spot with the design and performance — now they just have to build it properly.

Reliability and Land Rover are not words that have appeared in the same sentence very often of late. But BMW, Rover's owner, has been through the Solihull factory with a fine-toothed comb and Freelander should be the first Land Rover product to get the full benefit of the Germans' legendary quality control.

The vehicle has also been designed to be easier to build than the ladder-frame chassis and bolt-on body-work of the Discovery, Defender and Range Rover. In fact, Freelander breaks with a bundle of traditions all at once: instead of ladder-frame, there is a one-piece body, as well as

fully independent suspension replacing Land Rover's traditional twin live-axle approach.

Land Rover traditionalists will also discover there is no low-ratio gearbox for hill-clambering. Instead, a little yellow button on the five-speed manual gearlever activates an electronic braking system.

But Land Rover is not looking for traditionalists: Freelander will explore a whole new market of buyers who have never been able to afford — or wanted — to put a Land Rover on their wish-list.

With prices at between £16,000 and £20,000, the charismatic badge is within reach of a range of buyers, from young singles to mums who do the school run; from middle-aged managers who need a weekend car to carry the kids' bikes, to pensioners with the time to enjoy something with the solidity of a Discovery but the size of an estate car.

And they won't just be buying the vehicle, they will be buying into the lifestyle. Land Rover is to start selling the brand as well the vehicle, after you buy the Freelander, buy the sweatshirt, the cap, the shoes or the £150 mountain bike so gorgeous, it is worth saving up for on its own.

Peter Kinnaird, the commercial director masterminding this expansion into "lifestyle retailing", says Land Rover customers buy an average £500 worth of extras and accessories with their vehicle. He thinks that will double, as the familiar green and gold logo slips alongside Camel, Marlboro or Nike onto the outdoor wear stands in exclusive shops.

"We are defying all the usual marketing conventions because we think Freelander will appeal across a vast range of people," he says. "Defining a customer is impossible

because they will be exchanging GTIs or estate cars for a vehicle which offers them a car-like driving experience on the road but the ruggedness and versatility of an off-roader."

From launch in January, Land Rover expects to sell about 20,000 Freelanders in Britain next year. But an American launch will be a must: full production is 60,000 — about the same as Discovery output — though Solihull could make an extra 15,000 or so vehicles annually if demand was big enough. They will be made alongside the thriving Discovery, the Range Rover — which accounts for about 30,000 vehicles a year — and the evergreen Defender, which Land Rover chucks out at the rate of around 30,000 annually.

Freelander is pitched at big competition, notably Toyota's RAV4 and Suzuki's Vitara, but this first sight would suggest that the British entrant will once again set the benchmark for style, comfort and performance. The only drawback could be the issue of reliability, which scared off some American buyers and disgruntled many in this country.

The danger is that massive demand would encourage Land Rover to crank up the assembly lines at the expense of reliability. Not this time, I suspect: executives will be mollycoddling their new baby until they can gauge response — though there seems little doubt that if the factory can ensure reliability, buyers will flock to the green and gold badge.

Smooth off-roader, Page 3



Electronic braking system is used for hill clambering



"Lifestyle" Land Rover design aims at a wide audience



While body style is familiar, design is groundbreaking

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Agricultural vehicles should be selectively banned from clogging roads at harvest time as part of a package of small measures to cut congestion

Zero tolerance for farmer Giles

Great beasts of the field have been plaguing me of late, to the point where I begin to wonder if I have been too kind to them in the past. They are often red, these huge creatures, though some are yellow. Their colour is not the problem: the problem is one of dimension and speed.

I think it was last year, at harvest time, when an appeal went out to farmers to stop clogging the roads with their harvesters and tractors. I wrote at the time that this was an unreasonable demand, for there are a thousand causes of delay on the roads, and farmers going about their business are as legitimate as anyone else.

Quite a few people wrote to disagree, claiming that it was all very well for me. This was not the best point they could have made,

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

for I live surrounded by fields that every year have to be harvested.

This year I have had to rethink my attitude, however. And in doing so I have had to carry out some more detailed research into the movements of farm machinery. The only possible conclusion

is that many farmers either do not care about other road users or have never let the problem cross their minds.

One of the difficulties is that farmers tend to move their vehicles along roads during the two rush hours. This fact explodes the myth that farmers get up so early they have to wake the cockerel so that he can start crowing.

There may be some truth in this as applied to dairy farmers, who milk their cows at unearthly hours of the morning, but arable farms — the majority — are run more or less to office hours, except at harvest time when the work goes on into the late evening.

If I am right in noticing an increase in farm traffic on the roads this year, I can only think it has something to do with the way modern farming is carried out.

A second factor appears to be that with so many small farmers in Britain going out of business, their

farm land tends to be carved up among other local farmers, with the result that harvesters have to spend more time on the roads getting from one bit of farm to another.

These are subtle social factors that contribute to delays on the roads without offering any immediate solution. It would be possible

to ban farm vehicles from A and B-roads during the rush hours. This need not cause much difficulty to farmers, provided they plan their workloads.

Of course any such move would cause a tremendous political row, but that is not a reason to abandon the idea. There was a tremendous row when France banned lorries

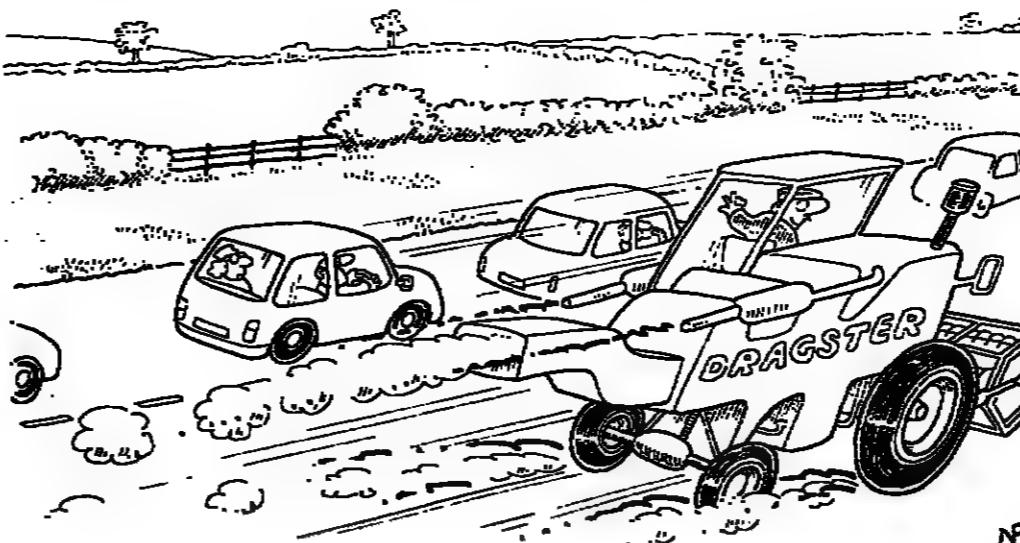
from its roads at weekends, but the idea worked.

Anyone who drives regularly knows that a large part of the solution to traffic problems lies in small measures that offer aggregate gains. Cumbersome farm vehicles on main roads are only part of a big picture that includes everything from illegal parking to cyclists riding two abreast.

Zero tolerance is much in favour as a means of dealing with crime so perhaps with a little lateral thinking we can impose zero tolerance on traffic-flow problems. The sheer numbers of cars on the road may be a problem, but how big or small the problem is will not be apparent until we do something about the countless obstructions that slow traffic.

And not just physical obstructions. Local authorities often make life hard for themselves. Bath, one of the most visited cities in Europe, has recently been gnawing its teeth over traffic congestion, especially at weekends. Yet Bath insists on closing one of its park-and-ride locations every Saturday.

That is a classic example of the penny taking a long time to drop, and there are countless others. A few small ideas usually achieve more than one big idea.



College Javelin champion

At 13 years of age most schoolboys collect stamps and football programmes, but Mark Torok was acquiring his first classic car, an MGB GT. Now, aged 18, he has scored a major coup by finding an original classic in a barn.

When Mark offered to help a neighbour clear a derelict barn he had no idea of the treasure that lay inside, but as three decades of farm equipment, tools, household debris and brambles was removed, he recognised the shape of a Jowett Javelin in a corner.

The neighbour, who had driven the car into the barn 27 years ago and promptly forgotten all about it, agreed to sell the somewhat shabby Javelin to Mark, and it has now taken pride of place alongside his brace of Daimler Conquest Centuries, Austin 1300 and his daily transport, a venerable Land Rover.

His find is all the more remarkable since the very first Javelin was launched exactly 50 years ago and this year fans of the car have been celebrating the anniversary.

The Jowett Javelin, designed by Gerald Palmer, was one of the first genuinely new postwar cars capable of seating four in comfort and taking them to 80mph, at a time when most car owners dreamed of reaching 60mph.

Technologically advanced for its age, its aerodynamic tear-shaped rear hid torsion bar springs. There was rack-and-pinion steering and its flat-four 1486cc engine, if somewhat unreliable, left most competitors struggling to keep up.

Mark, who lives in the Kent village of Westmarsh and is studying business and languages at college in nearby Canterbury, was delighted that his Javelin turned out to be one of the few pre-1950 cars remaining. Supplied new in July 1949 by George Fitt Motors in Whitstable, it spent most of its life in the Folkestone area before being driven into the barn in 1970.

Mark says: "The car was covered in 27 years' worth of dust and brambles, and the headlamps and bumpers were missing. When I cleaned the dirt off the windows, though, I saw that the chromework was sitting on the seats."

"The key was still in the ignition and the logbook and



Barn find: the Javelin, minus chrome



Mark Torok and his 1949 Javelin, now awaiting a sympathetic restorer to step in

the service guide were in it too." Mark had it towed home by tractor, where he has started work cleaning it up.

"I saved a 1962 Cadillac Coupe de Ville that had been sitting on somebody's drive for ten years and which still had the original New Jersey tax plates on it, and I also found a Rover SDI. The Javelin is special though. It deserves more than a barn."

Having got the car, Mark now hopes to find somebody with the time, expertise and the money to do a full restoration: "I have to get on with my studies and simply do not have the time to do it."

Even so, restoring a car like a Javelin is likely to be more a labour of love, repaid by pride of ownership, than providing any owner with an instant fortune.

Classic car trader Peter Rodgers, of Huddersfield, specialises in the marque and says even in near-perfect condition, a Javelin is unlikely to fetch more than £5,000.



Car last saw Tarmac in 1970



Jowett boasts metal dashboard of pre-1950s models



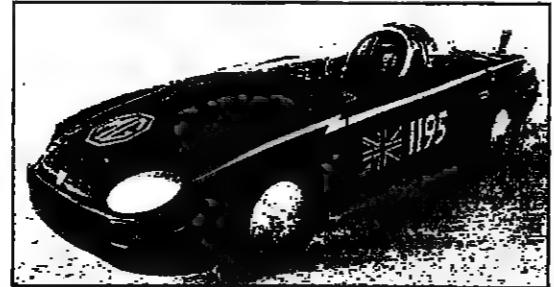
Original logbook and service guide survive, as does interior of the 80mph saloon

Rover is attempting to beat the speed set by Stirling Moss at Bonneville

MGF reaches 217mph

JUST HOW fast can an MGF go? A specially prepared version of the two-seater sports car was driven at 217.4mph during Speedweek on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah last month.

The run marked the 40th anniversary of Stirling Moss's 245.6mph land-speed record for Class F (1100-1500cc) cars, set on the same course in the MGA-



Modified MGF will be back next year for more

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long



THRUST TEAM SET FOR RECORD

THE RACE to the sound barrier is on. Any day now, Britain's land-speed record contender, Thrust SSC, will start its runs across the Black Rock desert in Nevada in a head-to-head with American Craig Breedlove's Spirit of America.

Driven by RAF Tornado pilot Andy Green, the giant twin-jet car will be competing with its lightweight American rival to be first to travel at supersonic speeds on land, and in the process beat the 633.468mph land-speed record held since 1983 by Thrust project director Richard Noble.

The car and team flew to Nevada in a giant Antonov freighter aircraft earlier this week, even though Noble admits that funding for a full month of high-speed runs is only 65 per cent complete. He is confident that a good early showing will bring in extra cash.

Thrust SSC is powered by two Rolls-Royce Spey engines from the Phantom fighter.

each producing power equivalent to 1,000 Ford Escorts — 25,000lbs of thrust. It reaches 100mph in 4 seconds and is said to be capable of 850mph, 100mph more than the sound barrier. In tests in Jordan earlier this year Thrust reached well over 500mph. It will have to cover the 14-mile track in just 46 seconds to break the record.

The car and team flew to Nevada in a giant Antonov freighter aircraft earlier this week, even though Noble admits that funding for a full month of high-speed runs is only 65 per cent complete. He is confident that a good early showing will bring in extra cash.

Thrust

is powered by two Rolls-Royce Spey engines from the Phantom fighter.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030



Freelander's delight is in its attention to design detail — but it is still a true off-roader, says Kevin Eason



Cabin's front-seat powerpoint enables driver and passenger to charge up their lifestyles



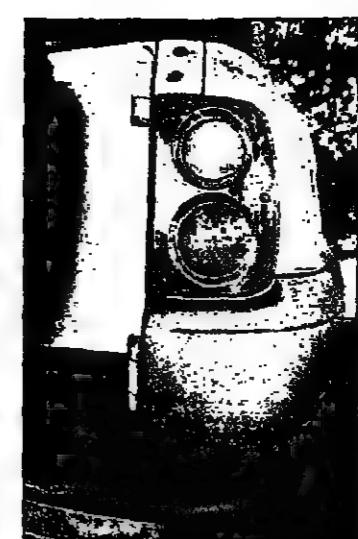
Gearstick features trigger for switching to the patented Hill Descent Control gear system



Freelander comes in three body styles, including five-door station wagon and three-door softback, both shown above. On the softback, the hood bows forward to a roll bar while there are twin targa-style removable sunroofs above the front seats. All this converts a 4x4 into a rugged convertible



Clear, ergonomic dashboard features twin gloveboxes and a good deal of storage space



Tail lamps are reminiscent of the venerable old Defender's single vertical cluster of lights

You barely notice at first glance a simple elasticated plastic bar low down on the door. Everybody puts a cup-holder in their new models these days, seemingly as vital a piece of equipment as the engine when the emphasis is on lifestyle and leisure.

In the Freelander, it is not just a cupholder: the designers realised that cups come in all shapes and sizes, soft-drink cans and bottles of water as varied in their styling as cars. So Freelander got something more versatile.

Detail, you see. Freelander is covered in detail, the sort of tiny things which separate satisfaction from irritation, which mean that drivers of the latest Land Rover will feel at home in their vehicles.

Designers and engineers sat down together from day one knowing that the Freelander had to be different. Inevitably, the Japanese market had already swamped the niche market for small off-roaders and you can barely cross a city street without sight of a trendy Toyota RAV4 or a garish Suzuki Vitara.

While Land Rover's stylists looked for the shape, the engineers looked deep into the detail that

rectangular wraparound headlamps — and those big, grey bumpers that many buyers will either love or hate.

"When you have a history as long as Land Rover's, you are faced with a series of challenges you must overcome with a new vehicle," says Upex. "You don't want to break the mould but you can't keep repeating history because it will not work."

"That's why we gave the Freelander strong shoulders and a straight bodyline. We wanted the bumpers in that solid colour block to make the vehicle look tough. We didn't want it to look like a car. Most of the competition are car-derived products and look it, so we wanted Freelander to show its distinctive design heritage."

Freelander is launched with three body styles, a full five-door station wagon and two three-door versions, one a softback and the other with a hardback, which undoes and lifts off in a few seconds turning the Freelander from a station wagon to a pick-up.

In the softback, the hood bows forward to a roll bar while there are twin, targa-style removable sunroofs above the front seats. All this converts a 4x4 into a rugged convertible. Somehow the trio all look very different, although Land Rover's engineering team says that structure and panels are largely the same right up to the B-pillar.

But how will it go off-road? Steve Haywood, chief engineer on the Freelander project, just grins if you ask him.

"When we showed Freelander to the BMW board, they were amazed how well it coped off road," he says. "We know that the people who buy vehicles like this will probably never drive in a field or desert sand or anything worse than heavy rain. But this is a Land Rover and people expect Land Rovers to be able to go anywhere and to do it better than everybody else."

Power comes from Rover's familiar K-series 1.8-litre petrol engine — worth 118 brake horse power — as well as the company's 2-litre direct-injection diesel, which gives a torque of 96bhp, both powerful enough to push a vehicle much smaller than a Discovery through the mud.

But drivers unfamiliar with off-roading might be daunted by those push-me-pull-you low-ratio gearboxes which burden the serious 4x4 machines. On Freelander, you get a yellow, Nintendo-style trigger on the gearstick which operates Land Rover's patented Hill Descent Control system, a clever piece of lateral thinking.

Put Freelander on a sticky, steep descent and engage HDC with the throttle closed and the system selects first gear and uses the anti-lock brakes to maintain a descent speed of 5.6mph; if the track gets slipperier or undulates, it reduces descent to 4.4mph.

Get it all wrong and ding a side panel and there is no need to worry, for Freelander also uses a material new to cars called Noryl GTX, designed to pop back instead of denting. Haywood was confident it worked anyway, bouncing on a panel to show how robust it was. The Noryl panels can be painted or filled just like aluminium and simply bolt on for ease of repair.

Which, along with fuel consumption at 27.6 miles to the gallon combined for petrol versions and 36.6 for the diesel, will help make Freelander the cheapest 4x4 to run. We shall see.

No mere cup-holder for the Freelander: elastic bar takes all sizes of drinks containers

would separate Freelander from the rest.

Clamber around the cockpit and their work is evident, the dashboard clear and ergonomic with twin gloveboxes among lots of storage space. There is plenty of headroom and a full three seats in the rear — all with three-point belts. There is an electrical power point between the front seats so driver or passenger can get at it freely (and the option of one in the boot too).

The boot is adequate rather than gigantic but again, Rover's designers have shown their ingenuity. The rear window drops down electronically, operated by the remote "flip" key, so that drivers laden with groceries can load up without opening the side-hinged back door, simply reaching through the window opening.

Geoff Upex, Rover's design and concept director, walked me around the Freelander to describe the styling cues aimed to make the vehicle uniquely Land Rover yet give the company a new face.

The bonnet, for example, is a "clam shell" shape, familiar from the Range Rover, which allows the Freelander to revel in its heritage. The "kick" in the roof of the five-door is clearly a cue from the Discovery, while the round tail lamps are reminiscent of the venerable Defender's single-file, vertical cluster of lights.

But Freelander establishes its identity with a new face, a wide grille and set-apart eyes of large

The Rover makeover

Familiar design tradition mixes with lasting new looks

WHEN YOU design a Land Rover, you are handed the baggage of almost 50 years of history and a familiarity of shape and style that car buyers cling on to like a family heirloom.

Gerry McGovern, Rover's chief designer, had already tackled — and beaten — that problem when he produced the MGF. Now the Freelander is the latest vehicle to escape the clutches of history and move on a generation with some radical styling allied to cues taken from Land Rover's heritage. McGovern insists that Freelander could not follow the Japanese competition and early sketches show the way the vehicle evolved as the design team moved from ultra-radical to chic.

"You see a Japanese 4x4 and it is very trendy but the styling dates very quickly," he says. "We cannot afford to be like that so we have taken enormous trouble to find a shape and style that will last and be distinctive."

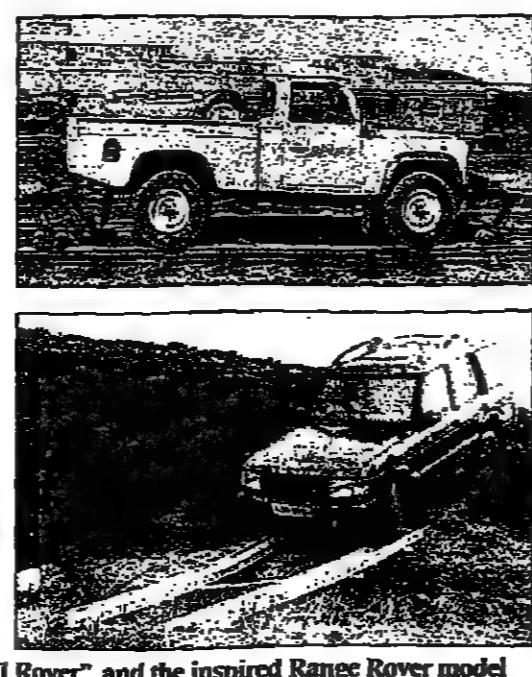
Being distinctive enough to be instantly recognisable is a hallmark of all Land Rovers. And Freelander is as McGovern and I squinted into the sunshine at two Freelanders being photographed, there was no mistaking Land Rover's new baby.



Rover designer Gerry McGovern with the company's new baby: "We have taken enormous trouble to find a shape and style that will last and be distinctive"



First basic Land Rover, left, spawned myriad variants such as, top right, this "Rail Rover", and the inspired Range Rover model



THE IDEA was born down on the farm as Maurice Wilks bounced over his fields in an ex-US Army Willys Jeep.

Maurice was chairman of a postwar Rover company under pressure to build cars for export to revive Britain's struggling economy. But there was a desperate shortage for making conventional assembly lines.

With his brother Spencer, Rover's chief engineer, Maurice decided to make a British jeep — only better — with a unique ladder-frame chassis with the body bolted on for simple construction. Aluminium replaced steel but of course lightness and durability.

Maurice's idea was to sell overseas but keep costs down, the first prototypes had the steering

Life has been no smooth road for this famous name

wheel positioned in the middle of the cabin while there were no doors: this was basic motoring in the extreme but the Wilks brothers had in mind a vehicle that could tough it out on any terrain anywhere in the world.

They were proved right, for it was an immediate success when it was launched in 1948. At one time, Land Rovers were built in 30 countries from kits supplied by the factory at Solihull in the West Midlands, and in 40 years more than 1.6 million Land Rovers had been made.

There was a stroke of design genius to come in the shape of the Range Rover in 1970 which took the 4x4 off the farm and put it into cities as the most fashionable vehicle to be seen in, it still is.

But the rot was setting in by the mid-1980s. Hugely inefficient factories turning out just two rapidly ageing models under attack from cheaper, more reliable Japanese rivals had put the company in severe trouble.

There was one piece of genius locked in Solihull's vaults though: the Discovery. When it was launched in 1989, production was below 50,000 vehicles a year; ten years on, output from Solihull is almost 130,000 a year and Land Rover is the most profitable jewel in the Rover crown, envied by carmakers the world over.

Nissan's flagship musclecar is bound to go fast, says Ian Morton, as only 100 of them are being imported into Britain



Hit 8,000rpm in first gear and the Skyline rockets to 30mph in two seconds. Click second gear and break our speed limit, logging 0-60mph in under 5.5 seconds on the way

Skyline — it's the limit

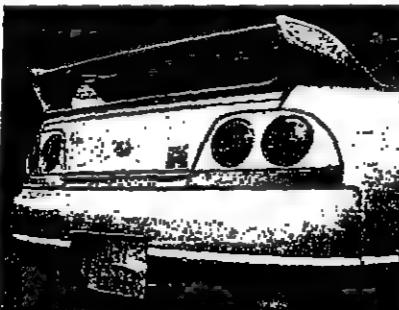
At 2 o'clock one January morning this year, a new record was set on the streets of Tokyo when police clocked a car at 195mph. The speed merchant, with his wife at his side, was driving a Nissan Skyline GT-R. The policemen who caught them were driving another.

Just 100 examples of the Skyline GT-R are now to be made available to British enthusiasts at exactly £50,000 apiece. The nation's police will be relieved to know that the imported version will not be tuned to the 400bhp that allowed the Tokyo tearaway to approach the double-ton. The UK car will brew a mere 280bhp and 155mph.

But the January incident tells us a lot about the structure, chassis and engine of the GT-R. They add up to a dynamically superb package. The road car is based on the country's most successful production racer — 200 wins since the model was originally launched, including five national championships and a Spa 24 Hours.

It does not look exceptional. Its plain lines, aero skirts and fins-and-wing rear give it the decidedly dated appearance of an Eighties musclecar. The interior, though roomy for two and adequate for four, is even less impressive, with a handy but mundane control area and materials of minimal quality. But despite the lack of show, the GT-R is Nissan's new flagship.

It will be exclusive, with no adverts, but promotion through association with fashionable men's clothes designer Ozwald Boateng, and will be available only through one dealer, Middlehurst of St Helen's, Lancs.



Fins and wings on rear look dated

When Nissan made noises about importing the car earlier this year they had 550 enquiries of which 350 are judged "not prospects", and ten deposits have been taken with the car unseen. It goes on sale in November and Nissan expects the lot to have gone by June. So why only 100? That is the most allowed without expensive modifications to meet UK type-approval regulations.

Now that the GT-R's spec is lacking in real terms. The 2.6-litre 24-valve straight-six engine with twin turbos is sweet, and eager to hit its full 8,000rpm. Do so in first gear and see 0-30mph in around two seconds. Click second and break our legal speed limit, logging 0-60mph in under 5.5 seconds on the way.

The whole pell-mell process is near-seamless and accompanied by a purposeful baritone blear that booms through the roar of broad treads on Tarmac.

The faster the GT-R goes, the more secure it feels. The weighty steering sets itself into the dead-ahead position and the car will run hands-off down the straight, yet the high-ratio rack makes it elastically responsive and accurate in the turns.

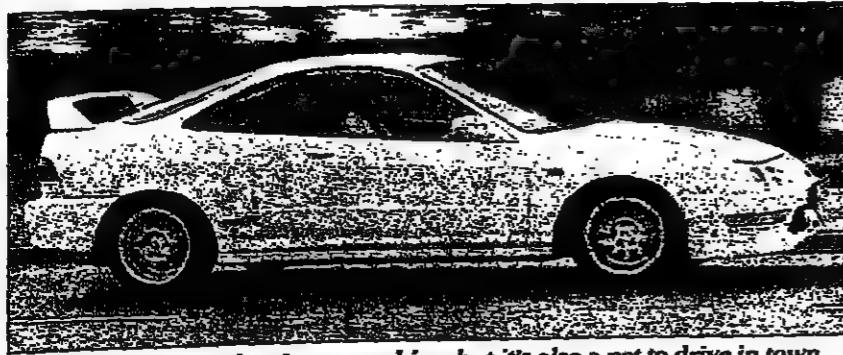
In the wet I did detect front-end twitch or two under severe use of the mighty all-ABS brakes and some rear-end jolts when accelerating hard, but deviation was momentary. The GT-R boasts a drive train which feeds the rear wheels in normal service but can transfer up to 50 per cent of traction to the front within one-hundredth of a second when its computer detects wheelspin. In addition a limited-slip differential balances the rear wheels.

Take sharp avoiding action or jerk the car into another traffic lane, and while loose items fly across the interior and occupants get a jolt, the car simply steps sideways. This ability comes courtesy of a third-generation Nissan version of the brilliant Porsche Weissach axle in which rubber mountings allow the rear wheels to turn by up to half a degree in sympathy with the front, giving a four-wheel steering effect.

There are far too many shocks and shivers in town, however, and plenty of reminders on the open road as well.

There again, as the pace quickens and the aerodynamics flatten the car against the road, the road itself seems to smooth out. No car at this price reaches a better high-speed understanding with the highway. Probably that was why that chap in Tokyo was blasting his GT-R through the streets at 195 mph. He was concerned for his wife's comfort.

Motorbike fun in a car



Type-R is a street-legal race machine, but it's also a pet to drive in town

Playing £25,000 for a car that does not even have a radio might sound a duff investment, but for those who care more for motoring fun than news bulletins, Honda's race-bred Integra Type-R is set to become an instant sporting classic, Vaughan Freeman writes.

The lack of radio saves around half a kilo, and even the windscreen uses thinner glass to save weight in a car that is vicious when unleashed but a pet in traffic. The Type-R is a street-legal race machine, a fitting product of Honda's motorsport heritage.

In a motororing world where less equals more, Honda has invested in the Type-R the sort of engineering and technological know-how more usually found in Formula One.

The Type-R will sell only in small numbers but Honda hopes its mere presence will help revolutionise the carmaker's image. The car comes only

in white, harking back to Honda's original Formula One livery, and on hand to launch its first outing at the Silverstone grand prix circuit was Honda's British Touring Car pilot Gabriele Tarquini.

Tarquini's Type-R was identical to the car that will go on sale in January, except for slick race tyres, a fire extinguisher and a roll cage. His mission was to beat the Silverstone track record for Group N production saloons.

Tarquini roared out of the pit lane and was back one minute and 36 seconds later, having knocked an impressive five seconds off the record.

At the hands of somebody less accomplished, the engine below 4,000rpm is flexible, and the car is easy to use. Even the ride is less harsh than you might expect given the lowered and stiffened suspension. It is noisy though, since so much insulation has been stripped out to save weight.

"It is hard to change the

Honda driver image here of elderly motorists in Bournemouth, much as we value those customers and intend to keep them.

"We want to surprise people with a car they would not expect to see with a Honda badge on it."

Stephen Hollings, Honda manager for product planning says: "We are looking at customers who want a motorbike with four wheels. We asked ourselves what Honda Fireblade motorbike owners do in the winter when they don't want to ride."

The answer is the Type-R, a car for the enthusiast, somebody who can appreciate its excellent roadholding and the capabilities.

One possibility being considered by Honda is to offer the Type-R and the 170mph Fireblade as part of the same very rapid roadgoing package; then the driver-biker can steer clear of radios all the time.

INTEGRA TYPE-R

Engine: 1.8-litre V10, producing 190bhp through five-speed manual gearbox with uprated racing clutch.

Performance: Top speed 145mph. 0-62mph in 6.7 seconds. Special equipment: ABS, super-large disc brakes, aluminium race wheels and exhaust, hand-polished engine inlet ports. Price: Around £25,000.

NISSAN SKYLINE GT-R

Engine: 2.6-litre, 24-valve in-line six-cylinder giving 280bhp through five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: 0 to 60mph in 5.3 seconds. 0 to 100mph in 13.8 seconds, top speed 155mph.

Equipment: four-wheel ABS, power steering with tilt adjustment, air-conditioning, electric front windows, twin airbags, central locking, four-speaker stereo. Price: £50,000

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Play Fantasy Formula One

Prizes worth £40,000



Tomorrow's Italian Grand Prix is the 13th race in our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One competition. Heading our leaderboard after the Belgian GP is R Davis from Barnes, London. His team, Dragon Racing, has 8,851 points after scoring 950 points, including 300 bonus points, at the Belgian Grand Prix.

TO ENTER If you have not yet entered a team into our £40,000 competition use the panel, below right, to make three selections from each of the four groups and call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK).

THE PRIZES The manager with the best team

score after the European

Grand Prix on October

26, will win the first

prize of £25,000

courtesy of our sponsor

Marlboro World

Championship team.

Prizes of £10,000 and

£5,000 will go to two

runners-up. The manager with the most points in the Italian

Grand Prix will win a trip for two to next year's British

Grand Prix. The runner-up gets a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game.

TRANSFERS You can change up to four selections before the Austrian Grand Prix by calling 0891 533 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon Thursday, September 18. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three drivers you select will be your prediction for the Luxembourg Grand Prix bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position on our leaderboard after the Belgian Grand Prix on 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) with your 10-digit PIN number. Lines will open on Wednesday.

DRIVERS GROUP A

01 D Hill 70 822 02 M Hakkinen 112 982

02 M Schumacher 134 1468 03 D Coulthard 26 898

03 J Villeneuve 112 1206 04 R Barrichello 13 534

04 E Irvine 84 1063 05 H Fittipaldi 103 1001

05 J Alejo 94 1302 06 J Harbert 107 1013

06 G Berger 107 1028 07 M Salo 94 983

DRIVERS GROUP B

08 J Trulli* 63 1307 09 G Fisichella 122 1116

10 A. Verstappen 15 788 010 S Nakano 6 841

11 W. Kotayama 73 737 011 G Morbidelli* 51 1031

12 P. Diniz 89 619 012 T. Marques* 6 724

13 R. Rosset 0 0 0 13 J. Magnussen 83 603

14 R. Schumacher 22 831 04 V. Sospiri 0 0

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C

05 Williams 23 150 06 Arrows 9 25

07 Ferrari 20 208 07 Sauber 22 134

08 McLaren 14 108 08 Tyrrell 5 5

09 Benetton 20 224 09 Minardi 3 28

10 Jordan 5 111 10 Stewart 4 115

11 Prost -125 11 Lola 0 0

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D

12 Williams 23 150 13 Arrows 9 25

14 Ferrari 20 208 14 Sauber 22 134

15 McLaren 14 108 15 Tyrrell 5 5

16 Benetton 20 224 16 Minardi 3 28

17 Jordan 5 111 17 Stewart 4 115

18 Prost -125 18 Lola 0 0

*Jarno Trulli of Minardi replaces Olivier Panis in the Prost team.

Tarso Marques replaces Trulli at Minardi and a Stuber/Gerini/Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larini, replaces Fontaine.

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

The first column of figures, in light type after the names

below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Belgian GP. The second column shows the total

points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS GROUP A

01 D Hill 70 822 02 M Hakkinen 112 982

03 J Villeneuve 112 1206 04 R Barrichello 13 534

05 H Fittipaldi 103 1001 06 G Berger 107 1013

07 M Salo 94 983 08 J Trulli* 63 1307

09 G Fisichella 122 1116 10 A. Verstappen 15 788

11 W. Kotayama 73 737 12 P. Diniz 89 619

13 R. Rosset 0 0 14 V. Sospiri 0 0

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C

05 Williams 23 150 06 Arrows 9 25

07 Ferrari 20 208 08 Tyrrell 5 5

09 McLaren 14 108 10 Stewart 4 115

11 Benetton 20 224 12 Minardi 3 28

13 Jordan 5 111 14 V. Sospiri 0 0

15 Prost -125 16 Lola 0 0

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D

05 Williams 23 150 06 Arrows 9 25

07 Ferrari 20 208 08 Tyrrell 5 5

09 McLaren 14 108 10 Stewart 4 115

11 Benetton 20 224 12 Minardi 3 28

13 Jordan 5 111 14 V. Sospiri 0 0

15 Prost -125 16 Lola 0 0

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DRIVERS GROUP B

08 J Trulli* 63 1307

Idea that runs flat

Get-you-home tyres are not new, but this one could work, says Stuart Birch

Next year, Michelin will launch a new, get-you-home, or to that vital business meeting, run-flat tyre. And it won't matter if your home or meeting is 125 miles away. The danger of mother and children being marooned on a motorway or in some lonely rural spot, could be no more: the Michelin PAV should carry on rolling and save the day. Not only that, but the PAV (Pneu Accrochage Vertical — vertically anchored tyre) will use new technology to provide enhanced handling, lower rolling resistance to improve fuel consumption, and performance suitable for most road surfaces across the world.

But it is its run-flat capability that will distinguish it from being just another grippy tyre. The problem for Michelin, though, lies in pumping up the PAV's credibility. Until now, run-flat, or "extended mobility" tyres in Europe have been a bit of a let-down. In the 1960s, Dunlop tried with the Denovo and in the 1980s Michelin and Dunlop worked together on a system. Neither was the success it might have been for a variety of technical and marketing reasons.

The PAV, though, would almost remove the need for a spare tyre. Almost, because if a tyre was seriously damaged, such as when striking a kerb, it might be unusable. But with that caveat aside, the PAV has great promise.

Although still under development, by late next year there will be "special programmes" for PAV, says Michelin and it is expected to be offered on a limited basis by some car manufacturers on niche models. However, it may be several years before it is widely available, and only then if it has convincingly proved its worth.

When Michelin started the PAV tyre programme it had to do so in association with wheel technology. The wall of a conventional tyre comprises two zones, upper and lower. The upper looks after the handling and comfort, the lower

attaches to the wheel rim and does not contribute to performance.

A conventional tyre is held against the rim by the air pressure applied inside the tyre. But the PAV changes that: it uses a mechanical locking principle. The tyre is latched to the rim and the loads on the tyre simply make that latch tighter. Unlike a conventional tyre, the lower part of the PAV fits over the wheel rim instead of tucking inside.

That unhelpful lower half then suffers few loads, and tyre performance is significantly enhanced, says Michelin. The tyre shape is also altered, providing better handling and grip and there is ample room inside the tyre for a rubber support ring: it is this which gives run-flat capability.

In theory it all sounds great technology news. But automotive engineering and design is about compromise, and at present the run-flat PAV weighs about 10kg

more than a conventional tyre although that is likely to be reduced because added weight affects ride comfort. It may also be relatively expensive. So motor manufacturers may be cautious.

Michelin's long term hope is that the system will become widely acceptable for a variety of vehicles. The company demonstrated its potential at a tortuous test track in North Carolina, using Honda Accords fitted with the PAV.

It was highly competent on dry sections but sent some vibration into the car. In the wet, however, the PAV had superior grip to conventional tyres and an ability to cope with rapid course changes and hard cornering on a very slippery surface through a hairpin bend and a slalom.

Next came a test with one PAV deflated on a dry section of track which also included a demanding slalom. Under such arduous conditions there was some steering pull and added noise but no real drama and, thanks to its mechanical locking system and the tyre-over-run design, no hint of the tyre detaching from the rim.



PAV fits over the rim



First poster of Bib, the Michelin Man, from 1898. "Now is the time to drink," he declares, ready to quaff his nails and broken glass

Tyred and emotive

Stuart Birch on Bib's centenary

MICHELIN HAS pioneered advanced technology many times, and next year is totally appropriate for the launch of the PAV. It marks the 50th anniversary of the "X", the world's first production radial.

It is also the 100th anniversary of the multi-layered Michelin Man, the company's international symbol. But how he will be shown with a run-flat capability may prove to be a challenge almost as tough as creating the PAV.

Michelin is preparing for a birthday party next year for the character who is still part of the company's advertising.



1914 Russian advertisement

He was born soon after Edouard Michelin, looking at a stack of tyres in 1898, thought they resembled a man. He told his brother André: "All that is needed is a pair of arms." André commissioned an artist to come up with some designs on the theme — and Michelin Man was created.

One of the drawings showed him as a roundabout drinker, raising his glass and declaring "Num est Bibendum" (Now is the time to drink). The character quickly became known as "Bib" and the beer glass was replaced by a goblet filled with nails and broken glass.

During the past 99 years, Bib has appeared in many guises — and he has also changed shape: the number of layers has reduced but each is far broader, indicating that modern tyres have grown massively in width from the skinny tubes of the earliest days of motoring.

CARMAP YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S USED ON THE FORECOURTS

Space Shuttle lands at lower price

ROADTEST

The Honda Shuttle has never been anything but a good vehicle: a people-mover, one of the pioneers in that now overcrowded field. It offered a car-like driving position, ride and handling with the advantage of decent space for luggage, even with its six seats in place, writes Alan Cope.

But because it originally offered only six seats rather than the seven of so many rivals, and because in this country it was distinctly pricy, it has never been popular. Now with revised models, Honda has answered its critics, the Shuttle comes in a seven-seat form and is priced to compete with market leaders like the Ford Galaxy and Renault Espace.

The improvements in the Shuttle reflect the growing importance of people-movers or MPVs in the market. In 1992 there were just four models on offer in this country, there are now 17 and sales have doubled in the past two years, reaching a total of 35,000 vehicles in 1996.

In the early days the people-mover was seen as a premium vehicle, but as more and more makers have entered the field the emphasis has been firmly on cars that cost less than



Rear seats stow away into their own well to provide masses of quick extra capacity

E20,000. The Honda's original sales pitch was built round the tag of a "private jet for the road" emphasising quality and luxurious comfort and costing more than £23,500.

The company says both the new versions remain faithful to the original concept, yet the price of the seven-seater LS has been brought down to £17,995 while the equipment list remains impressive.

The six-seat SE version features exactly the same drive train, a 2.2-litre engine linked to four-speed automatic transmission but offers cruise control and side airbags.

SPARE PARTS

which changes its shift pattern to suit driving style and road conditions.

The car, which goes on sale in Britain in January but can be seen at the London Motor Show from October 15, also has a stronger body shell with side impact protection, traction control and side airbags.

VAUXHALL

4,099, were the highest since 1990. The company has also announced it is to increase some 1998 model prices by less than one per cent, including the Astra and Vectra. Models in the Corsa and Tigra ranges will stay the same price.

■ A SALES boom has prompted Mitsubishi to release its 1998 four and five-door Carisma models from the beginning of September — nearly two months earlier than planned.

Demand for the Reg. Carisma in August sent sales up by 86 per cent on the same period last year. The 1998 models, which include 1.6 and 1.8-litre petrol and 1.9-litre diesel versions, cost from £12,230 to £17,205, an average of 2.1 per cent more than their predecessors.

SHUTTLE

Engine: four-cylinder, 2.2-litre producing 150bhp through four-speed automatic box.

Performance: 0-60mph, 11.1secs.

Max 114mph.

Economy: combined, 27.4mpg.

Equipment: Air

conditioning, twin

airbags, anti-lock

brakes, electric windows

(LS) plus cruise

control, alloy wheels,

electric sunroof (SE).

Price: £17,995 (LS).

£19,995 (SE).

move the middle row of seats, turning the whole vehicle into a mini-pantechnicon.

There are however two flaws that are also carried over from the original version: the automatic transmission, while fine in town and on the motorway, can occasionally seem fuzzy, especially on twisting country roads, as if it can't make up its mind about the right gear for the conditions.

And why does a company like Honda, so careful about so many details, insist upon fitting such nail-breaking controls for its stereo system?



■ THERE IS room to manoeuvre behind the dashboard of the new 350bhp Aston Martin V8 Volante — with twice as much space for luggage as its forebear, and an extra 200mm of leg room for rear seat passengers.

The convertible, which goes on show at the London Motor Show next month, will sell for around £169,500.

FORECOURT

CAP

■ BUYERS who dismiss a car's colour and value it only with regard to its performance and fuel economy could be making a costly error when deciding how much they pay, writes Vaughan Freeman.

■ FAR from being a cosmetic element of a car's value that has little or no bearing on its worth, the paint job can make all the difference not just to how much your car will fetch when you sell it, but whether it will sell at all, reports CAP Black Book.

■ FOR all cars colour is important, and for many it is virtually the be-all and end-all in the marketplace. Drivers who buy the right car in the right colour are going some way to ensuring its "sellability". CAP Black Book reports that whether the car is a sportster or a rugged off-roader, colour is the key. The Daihatsu Sportrak sells best if it is fitted with alloy wheels and comes in metallic green, while the same car is not nearly as popular in white.

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■ EVEN prestige cars are vulnerable to the vagaries of colour. The Mercedes-Benz S Class 320 and 420, while "desirable" generally, will struggle to sell in flat, unattractive colours. Not just executive cars are colour-sensitive.

Even the Skoda Felicia will sell more easily if it features metallic paint and alloy wheels, and the Rover 600 saloon will sell faster if it has colour-coded bumpers.

USED CAR BRIEF



PORSCHE 924
There is a cheaper alternative to paying £35,000 for a Porsche Boxster even if it is powered by a VW van engine. For a fraction of the price it used as a 125bhp two-litre, 170bhp five-litre Turbo and 150bhp 2.5-litre 924S with 1977 until the mid 1980s; a supposed 2+2 but in effect a two-seater with room in the back for soft bags.

GOOD NEWS: A car for 924, as you would expect from a VW van, but owners can always point out that turbo versions for legal racing in the 1980s will do 120mph and the more powerful 924S, launched in 1985, will go to 135mph.

BAD NEWS: The 924 suffers because it lacks pure Porsche pedigree, the 2-litre engine comes from a VW van, but owners can always point out that turbo versions for legal racing in the 1980s will do 120mph and the more powerful 924S, launched in 1985, will go to 135mph.

LOOK OUT: A factory sunroof and leather upholstery will help fetch a better price when you come to resell, and the five-speed gearbox that becomes standard later can be a problem. Some cars have a history of dealer servicing. Lux models come with alloy wheels and tinted glass.

SAFETY: Traditionally solid, sure-footed and Porsche-like driving characteristics means drivers should be able to get into trouble in the first place, rather than trying to survive accidents.

REPLACEMENT PARTS (Prices supplied by Giesecke 01932 823829) Clutch assembly £250; full exhaust £430; front brake pads £25; seat £275; rear damping £65; 40 alternator (exchange) £50; starter motor (exchange) £250; radiator £450.

PRICES: Expect to pay below £2,000 for the earliest models, and around £2,500 for a 1982 Y-reg 2-litre 924, £3,000 for a 1983 2.5-litre 924S, £3,500 for a 1984 2.5-litre 924 Turbo and £4,000 for a 1985 Boxster 2.5-litre 924S, £5,000 for a 1986 Boxster 2.5-litre 924 Turbo, £5,500 for a 1987 Boxster 2.5-litre 924 Turbo.

OVERALL: A used 924 can offer buckets of bargain fun driving and the car given the badge is very quick. Relatively economical to run given the badge, though tatty models now getting on for 20 years of age should be avoided.

Hove builds V8 missile from America

John Naish reports on one enthusiast's extreme interpretation of the Stateside motorcycling dream

There are surely no greater icons of the American road than the Harley-Davidson motorcycle and the Chevrolet Corvette car. So what could be a purer celebration of Stateside heavy metal than putting them together in one machine?

Ralph Bellamy has done just that, and his V8-engined monster of a cruising motorcycle has this month throbbed on to the road for the first time.

But it's not to the wide, sunny boulevards of Southern California that this machine has taken. The beast has been born and bred on the sedate back streets of seaside Hove, where Bellamy has spent the past year painstakingly building his dream.

He says that it is the first of its type to hit the road in Britain, and he is now considering putting the bike into small-scale production.

The statistics behind this bike are phenomenal: the Corvette engine, fresh out of its crate from the American car maker, is a 5.7-litre high-output model, which will produce 354bhp.

The bike is capable of hitting 50mph from standstill in around 1.5 seconds and is geared to reach a top speed of 120mph, though it could be set up to do "whatever you want", says Bellamy.

The present configuration is set up for practical road use, but Bellamy wanted to try it in race trim at the forthcoming Brighton Speed Trials, "but the rules say you can only run bikes of up to 2,000cc", he laments.

Such is the massive output of the American engine that

the bike, christened the Fatz V8, only has one gear. The clutch is slipped until about 30mph, and then it's just a matter of twist and go.

Final drive is through a huge belt, and the back tyre is currently a wide, flat item more usually seen on performance cars. "I'm looking to change it for a special motorcycle tyre, but the authorities

haven't given the green light yet," says Bellamy. He wanted to create a brute of his own. The frame he designed from scratch is inspired by Harley's Softail, which hides the rear shock absorbers in the bodywork, making the bike look as if it has an old-fashioned rigid rear end. Where two shock absorbers are enough on the Harley, however, Bellamy had to use three. "It's a tight squeeze in there," he reports.

Already he has ridden the Fatz up to London, naturally stopping off at the Hard Rock Café. "I've done 300 miles on it, and I have to say it's quite a handful," he says. "The bike's extremely quick in a straight line but it's a hard push going round the corners. I've built it for cruising, though, so it's never going to be the kind of thing you can really lay into bends."

One of the biggest surprises with the Fatz is its extreme quietness. The silencers Bellamy has fitted are quite restrictive, and obviously cut the power output.

But then what's a few lost horsepower when you have more than 350 to play with? "Everyone comments on the lack of noise," he says. "I don't want to create too much havoc with it — not until people get used to the idea."

While it's unlikely that the good people of Hove will ever want to get used to such a concept, the motorcycle certainly drew a mass of gapers and admirers down the road in Brighton. Parked outside the Waterfront café, a bikers' bar on the seafront, the big yellow machine prompted a

America already has a similar version of the bike, called the Boss Hoss, which uses the same combination of V8 powerplant and Harley-Davidson inspired frames.

The American maker now has its own range of styles and network of dealers. But buying one, either ready-made or in kit form, was not enough for

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